Letters from Settlers in Canada.

OFFICIAL AND OTHER INFORMATION

FOR INTENDING SETTLERS

IN

MANITOBA,

THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,

BRITISH COLUMBIA,

AND THE

OTHER PROVINCES OF CANADA.

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Free Grants of Land in Manitoba and the North-West Territories.

NOTE.

This pamphlet has been prepared to supplement the other pamphlets issued under the auspices of the Imperial and Dominion Governments, in regard to the advantages offered to settlers in the different provinces of Canada. It consists largely of local information, supplied by Government Officers, relating to the particular districts with which they are especially connected, and of letters from settlers, which are interesting as detailing their experiences, and, therefore, of much value to intending settlers. Enquiries may be addressed to any of the persons who are mentioned, by those who may desire further particulars respecting the different localities. Attention is also directed to the list of Government Agents, both in the United Kingdom and in Canada, which is to be found on the last page of the pamphlet.

Improved Farms and Crown Lands may also be purchased in the various Provinces of Canada at reasonable prices.

LETTERS

FROM

SETTLERS IN CANADA,

1895.

From Mr. John Allison, Government Homestead Inspector, Winnipeg, Man., October 28th, 1895.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt this day of "Circular Letter" No. 256711 relative to obtaining letters from successful settlers, giving their opinions respectively as to the advantages Manitoba offers to intending immigrants.

In reply, I beg leave to state I will endeavour to secure as many testimonials as possible bearing on the subject in the short time allotted me, and, in the meantime, ask permission to state from personal knowledge, gained in prosecuting my homestead inspection work during the harvest months of the present year, that the financial condition of the farmers in my district was never so satisfactory in the past, as the crops of the various kinds of grain raised are on an average double in amount of last year, and prices rather in excess.

From Mr. John J. Arsenault, Government Homestead Inspector, October 22nd, 1895.

Mr. J. A. McKenzie, of Bradwardine, Manitoba, has threshed 10 acres of wheat, yielding 58 bushels per acre.

Mr. J. Parr's crop averages over 35 bushels per acre, some portion of it yielding over 50 bushels per acre—white Fyfe.

Mr. H. English, another successful farmer, had 25 acres, averaging 49 bushels per acre from the machine, and weighing at the elevator 5 bushels extra on the total amount.

Mr. J. Brandon has been doing some big threshing in this neighbourhood. He has threshed 3,200 bushels of grain, as follows:—225 bushels wheat for Mr. S. Ferguson; 800 bushels of wheat, and the balance oats, for Mr. T. Ferguson, moving the machine three times—one move was 1½ miles—all in one day.

From Mr. J. H. Aikman, Government Homestead Inspector, Killarney, November 26th, 1895.

In reply to your letter of the 7th inst. (received by me to-day), I would beg to state that I have travelled through this district from

Morden, in Range 5 West, to Range 23, almost every year from July, 1883, to the present, as Inspector of Dominion Homestead Lands. This district is prairie and timber interspersed—part level, and part rolling and hilly. The Pembina and Turtle Mountains, as also the Cypress and Tiger Hills, are in this district—all timbered. It is well watered by the Pembina, Cypress, Long, and Badger Rivers, and various smaller streams, through the southern portion, and the northern part by the Assiniboine, Boyne, Cypress, and their numerous tributaries. There are also the Swan, Rock, Pelican, Whitewater, and hundreds of smaller lakes. No country can be better watered than this portion of Manitoba. Rock Lake, Swan, Pelican, and Killarney Lakes, and their outlets, have abundance of fish, and ducks and geese, as well as other game, are plentiful; and as to the soil, for agriculture, there is no better. When I commenced inspecting through here in 1883, the country was very sparsely settled—most of the settlers having but a few acres under cultivation; living in small log houses and shanties, with a few head of cattle, and occasionally a span of horses. Now it is well settled. Good farm-houses and outbuildings, large areas of cultivated land, numbers of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs. A farm without a good stock of horses and cattle is a rarity. This year's crops have been something far beyond the expectations of the most sanguine, and when I see passing trains almost daily—some days two or three trains—going east with the products of Manitoba, I wonder, for at each farm I find still loaded granaries, stables, and yards filled with stock. At the towns one sees elevators filling cars, and being filled; and yet one-third of Manitoba crop, in this district, remains unthreshed. This district for all-round farming—that is, mixed farming—I consider one of, if not the best in Manitoba. The homesteads in this district are almost a thing of the past, but plenty of first-class land can be purchased at reasonable prices; and persons coming to this district with means to purchase land cannot find a better in which to locate for farming purposes. I might make mention of the three railways running through the district to Winnipeg; the numerous towns and villages, and their rapid growth—from Range 5 to Range 22, inclusive. There are on the Deloraine branch of the C.P.R. no less than 13 stations at which there are elevators, now busy night and day taking in and sending out the grain of this district—Morden, with 5 elevators and about 1,500 inhabitants; Thornhill, 2 elevators and store-house; Manitou, 3 or 4 elevators; Lariviere, 2 elevators; Pilot Mound, 3 elevators and store-house; Crystal City, 1 elevator; Clearwater, 1 elevator and 1 store-house; Holmfield, 1 elevator; Killarney, 3 elevators; Ninga, 2 elevators; Boissevain, 4 elevators; Whitewater, 2 elevators. Then, on the N.P. Railway, there are elevators or store-houses at eight stations in this district; and in the south-western, 2 at Treherne, 2 at Holland, 2 at Cypress, 3 at Glenboro', 1 at Stockton, and 2 or 3 at Wawanesa. The fact of it requiring so many elevators and store-houses to send out the wheat of this district—not to store, but simply to pass through them into the cars—will give some idea of the wheat product alone; the yield being, on an average, of from 33 to 35 bushels per acre (there are many instances of 45 bushels and over). Oats and barley are also enormous

yields. Then go back ten years to 1885. Morden was not in existence, and not a village even west of Manitou,—not a village in the central or northern part; only here and there a small store, or a few goods at a farm post office. All these towns and villages have sprung up within that time, and each year increasing in size and population; and when you realise the fact that they are supported by the products of the farmers in the district in which they are located, you can form some idea of the capability of the district for producing, when not over one-fifth of the land is under cultivation or stock-producing. There are the C.P.R. lands and school lands unoccupied. I have travelled over the greater part of Manitoba from Birkenhead River, in Range 8, East, to the western boundary of the province, and do not know of a better district for farming purposes, or a district where a person with means to purchase land and start farming can invest his money to better advantage than in Southern Manitoba west of the Red River. A person wanting a free homestead would have to look elsewhere, as free homesteads south of the Assiniboine from the Red River to the Souris have been all, or very nearly all, taken up.

From Mr. John Allison, Government Homestead Inspector, Winnipeg, Man., October 29th, 1895.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of circular letter, ref. 343911, asking a report as to the results of immigration in my district during the past season, and also as to the general condition of settlers in said district.

In reply, I beg leave to state that, so far as my personal knowledge extends, the influx of immigrants has not been large, as the general trend of immigration has been westward; but, so far as I can learn, there have been (approximately) about 120 homestead entries granted in the Winnipeg land district, said homesteaders, with their respective families, making an approximate total of 325 souls; said settlers including, besides British subjects, and from the Dominion other than Manitoba and North-West Territories, different nationalities—Hungarians, Polanders, Icelanders, Swedes, Danes, and French; and in further connection I beg leave to state that all of those with whom I have conversed on the subject express themselves as being well pleased with the country.

With special reference to the general condition of the settlers who have been longer in the country, I am pleased to be able to report favourably, as the crops of various kinds have been abundant, and the season very favourable for harvesting and getting the grain to market; and though the price of grain is less than was hoped for during the season of growth, yet, as the yield has been beyond an average one to quite an extent, the net result is a satisfactory one; the only exceptions to above general conditions being the cases of settlers who have suffered the loss of grain and buildings by fire—said fires partly occasioned by sparks emanating from railroad engines and steam threshers, and partly by prairie fires, the latter in many cases occasioned by the carelessness of settlers personally.

From Mr. W. H. Hiam, Dominion Government Lands Agent, Brandon, Man. (1894).

The Souris Land District comprises 272 townships and fractional parts of 10 other townships in Range 34, representing a total area of 6,796,800 acres, or about 10,620 square miles. A glance at the map will show that this district embraces a very large part of central Manitoba. The main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, known as the National Highway of Canada, runs through it from east to west—a distance of about 150 miles. On this line of railway, and within the limits described, are the undermentioned stations and towns, with populations varying from 200 to 5,000 people, viz.:—Bagot, McGregor, Austin, Sidney, Carberry, Sewell, Douglas, Brandon, Alexander, Griswold, Oak Lake, Virden, Elkhorn, Fleming, Moosomin, and Wapella. These places enjoy all the facilities and advantages possessed by similar towns situated in other portions of Canada or the United States. The city of Brandon, usually termed the "Wheat City," is located on the Assiniboine River, in the centre of the province of Manitoba, and has a population of over 5,000, although it has only been in existence about 12 years. There are seven grain elevators erected here, with a capacity of 250,000 bushels; grist mill, oatmeal mill, saw-mills, planing mills, sash and door factories, brewery, machine shops and foundry, waterworks, electric light and telephone service. The public buildings consist of court-house and gaol (cost, $70,000), post office building, with custom houses and land office (costing $60,000), city hall and market (costing $60,000), central school (costing $50,000), land titles office ($18,000), city hospital ($20,000), east and west ward schools ($15,000), provincial insane asylum ($30,000), Indian industrial school and farm building ($40,000), Dominion Experimental Farm buildings ($20,000). The following churches are represented, and have spacious and convenient places of worship here, viz.:—Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist, and Salvation Army, also Icelandic.

The Morris-Brandon branch of the Northern Pacific Railway terminates here, after passing through a very fertile and well-settled part of the province all the way from the international boundary line at West Lynne. The famous Elliott settlement is situate on the line of this road, and several new towns and villages are growing up to be places of importance where stations are located and elevators are erected, giving facilities for grain shipment, &c.

An important branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway is one running chiefly through Township 7, from Range 13, until it reaches Range 27 W. at Reston, its present terminus; the portion of this branch west of Souris has been recently built, with a view to settlement of what is generally known as the Pipestone district, a description of which will be found further on.

Two other branches of this railway have also been lately extended through this district, viz.: the South-West, from Souris to the coal fields; and the Deloraine branch, extended in 1893 from Deloraine to Napinka Junction, connecting it with the Souris branch at the latter

point. In the matter of railway facilities it will be seen by the foregoing that the Souris district possesses greater advantages than many other parts of the North-West. This district is also well supplied with churches, schools, post offices, mills, and market towns, &c., so conveniently situated as to meet all reasonable requirements of the settlers.

The lands comprised in this district are famed for their remarkable fertility, and as an illustration of the fact it may be stated that during one season the enormous quantity of wheat alone, besides coarse grains, that was marketed at Brandon was estimated at over one million bushels.

A large area of land in Townships 5 to 10, in Ranges 28 to 34 W. of 1st M., is still available for homestead entry, and affords a good opportunity for a number of new settlers who desire to be near each other to do so. The surface of these lands is undulating, and soil fairly good; but the chief obstacle to settlement of this neighbourhood hitherto was the lack of railway facilities, which is now, happily, removed by the extension of the Pipestone branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Souris west through Township 7 to Reston, as previously stated; and a further extension of the same branch is projected to run westward to connect with the Canadian Pacific Railway system running south from Regina through the coal fields to the United States.

This extension is causing the vacant lands in that locality to be taken up very rapidly, and a settler who desires to acquire 320 acres has a chance to purchase 160 acres adjoining his free homestead of the same area, at the rate of $3 per acre—terms, one-quarter cash at time of homestead entry, and the balance in three equal annual instalments, with interest at 6 per cent. per annum; and the odd-numbered section held by the Canadian Pacific Railway may also be purchased at reasonable rates, by paying one-tenth of the principal in cash, and the balance in nine annual instalments, subject to interest at 6 per cent. on the unpaid balance.

The area of vacant lands in the Pipestone district may be given at from 12 to 15 townships, in which very few settlers are yet located; it will be seen, therefore, that a very large and important section of this district is still open for settlement. The scarcity of firewood in this neighbourhood has heretofore been considered a great want; but since the railway has been extended to the coal fields the fuel question has been set at rest, and no further anxiety about the matter need be felt, as there is an abundant supply of soft coal, comparatively near and easy of access. Coal can be bought at the mines for one dollar per ton or load by the settlers who are living near enough to drive to the mine; but those living further away have to pay higher rates for railway freight, according to distance carried from the mines.

Another good part of the district is still available for settlement, especially for stock-raising and ranching purposes: although of more limited extent than the last mentioned, still there are many good locations to be had. The portion referred to is situated south of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, chiefly in Townships 8, 9, and 10, Range 9 W., and continuing to range 16 W., in the vicinity of

the Assiniboine River, and near to such towns as McGregor, Austin, Sidney, and Carberry. Many portions of this section are well adapted to sheep-raising, in addition to other pursuits, as there is an abundant supply of water to be found in the existing streams and creeks. There is also a good deal of timber and pasture land, and these features should commend it to men who desire to engage in this branch of industry, and who possess sufficient means to start with. I would strongly recommend those who have had experience in this line to examine the locality, because I think there has been too little attention given to sheep-farming in the province.

A majority of the farmers in the Souris district have migrated from the older provinces of Canada, although a large number of English, Scotch, Irish, and Icelandic settlers are distributed over the various parts of it; next to Canadians in point of numbers, the English perhaps predominate, and the latter usually succeed very well after a little needful experience in a country where the climate and other circumstances make it necessary to adapt themselves to their new environment. The Icelanders are also quite numerous, and make good settlers; they are, generally speaking, industrious and thrifty people, of economical habits, consequently they succeed very well. Quite a large number of Belgians have also taken up homesteads here within the last year or two, and are reported as doing very well.

The Scotch crofters who are located near Pelican Lake, in the vicinity of Killarney, are reported to be doing well generally, and they will doubtless in due time become quite independent.

To persons having means to invest in farming operations, and who desire to locate in a well-settled place, this district presents great inducements, as there are farms offered for sale, with more or less improvements made, which may be purchased at reasonable rates and on liberal terms of payment.

From Mr. F. H. Froom, Carberry, Man., November 30th, 1895.

I have been in Manitoba for seven years. I settled on N.E. ¼, 33/9/13 W., and homesteaded the N.E. ¼, 28/9/13 W. I have my patent for these lands. I have had a succession of good crops. This year from 150 acres of land in wheat I had 4,000 bushels, and from 32 acres of oats I threshed 1,200 bushels. My barley turned out about 30 bushels to the acre. I have 25 head of stock, all in excellent condition.

I am well satisfied with Manitoba, especially the Carberry Plain. I cheerfully recommend the country to new settlers, more particularly to young men who desire to settle on farm lands.

From Mr. J. A. Calvert, Carberry, Man., November 30th, 1895.

I came to this province in 1891, and settled on the Carberry Plain. I am well pleased with the country, and I intend to remain and make my home here. During the years 1892, 1893, and 1894 I had fairly good crops, but this year beats the record. I had 70 acres in wheat, and from it I threshed 2,593 bushels. I had 10 acres of oats, which turned me out 550 bushels. This is, in my opinion, a most desirable country to settle in.

From Mr. H. Calvert, Carberry, Man., November 30th, 1895.

I came to Manitoba in the spring of 1891, and settled on the Carberry Plain, and have had very good crops every year. This year my crop was especially good. From 250 acres of wheat I threshed 8,000 bushels, and from 100 acres of oats I had 6,000 bushels. My barley went 32 bushels to the acre.

This fall I operated a threshing machine, and the grain turned out excellent everywhere. I know many instances where wheat has turned out 40 bushels to the acre.

I am well pleased with Manitoba, especially the Carberry Plain.

From Mr. W. H. Bate, Carberry, Man., November 30th, 1895.

I have been in Manitoba for 12 years. I brought with me $1,300 in cash. To-day I own 640 acres of good land, hold a mortgage of $600 against a quarter-section of land, and my stock and implements I value at $1,500. I have always had very good crops. This year's crop was an extra good one. I threshed over 4,000 bushels of wheat, and 1,500 of barley and oats.

I have been through many of the States of the American Union, but I saw no place to suit me until I came here. I intend to make the province of Manitoba my home.

From Mr. Samuel Richardson, Lucas P.O., November 2nd, 1896.

I, S. Richardson, of 22/14/25, near Lucas P.O., came from Essex County, England, in 1890, with a young family of eight children. I had no capital, and landed in Montreal with only £20. I had to subsist on that, and on what I earned. I came to this part of Manitoba and took up a homestead in June, 1891; commenced improvements that same season. I then broke 25 acres.

Now this season I had 65 acres in crop. I have not threshed yet. I expect to have at least 1,000 bushels of wheat, and at least 700 bushels of oats. I have about 80 bushels of potatoes. I have 3 horses, 1 colt, and 13 head of cattle. I have a house 16 × 20 ft., worth $140, also an addition 12 × 12 ft. I am about building a stone house. I have two stables and granary, and 35 acres fenced.

I am satisfied with my prospects in Manitoba, and I am certain that my fellow county men would do well in this country. I would like to say that immigration literature for this country should be circulated more extensively among the agricultural classes in the farming counties of England, and not in the cities, the population of which is of very little use here.

From Mr. Richard Bolton, Hamiota, November 2nd, 1895.

I, R. Bolton, came from Wexford County, Ireland, in the fall of 1881. I came to this part of Manitoba and took up a homestead and pre-emption the 17th of March, 1882. I performed the homestead duties, and got the title of a free homestead in 1885. I then entered for a second homestead. I got what was my pre-emption as a second

homestead, and have now completed the duties on that. I am now applying for the title for this second free homestead, it being 320 acres of land free from the Dominion Government.

This past season—1895—I had about 110 acres in crop. Some of the wheat yielded 40 bushels per acre.

I am well satisfied with my prospects in Manitoba.

From Mr. John Donahoe, Elkhorn, Man., October 30th, 1895.

I, J. Donahoe, came from Northumberland County, England, 11 years ago. I had no capital, and had to hire out first. I took up a homestead, and have now the patent for the same 160 acres of land; it being the N.E. 2/11/29. I had 55 acres crop, and 15 summer-fallowed.

The wheat yielded 18 bushels, oats 40 bushels per acre. Have four horses. Twelve miles from Elkhorn Station.

From Mr. Edward Naylen, Elkhorn, Man., October 30th, 1895.

I, E. Naylen, of E. $\frac{1}{4}$, 10/11/29, came from Northumberland Co., England, 11 years ago. I had to hire out first year. I have the patent for the homestead N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of same section. I had 80 acres crop on the same 1895, and 15 acres of summer fallow. The wheat yielded 14 bushels to the acre. I have a house and stable, 8 head cattle, 4 horses.

From Mr. James McGill, Elkhorn, October 3rd, 1895.

I, J. McGill, came from Ontario, Lambton County, in the year 1889. I took up a homestead the 25th May, 1889, it being the N.W. 12/9/29, about 17 miles from Elkhorn, on Canadian Pacific Railway.

My time is overdue now to have my title for the free homestead. I have not applied for it yet, as I have had no opportunity; but I was in no great hurry.

I have a house 12 × 14 ft., stable about 18 × 26 ft. I have 4 horses. About 100 acres have been cropped in 1895. The wheat yielded 25 bushels per acre. I have not threshed all the oats yet, but what was threshed yielded 40 bushels per acre. I had about $500 worth of stock and farm implements when I came to the country.

From Mr. Cowley Webster, Elkhorn, October 30th, 1895.

I, C. Webster, of Sec. 36/12/27, Two Creeks, came to Manitoba from Lincolnshire County 13 years ago. I had no capital. After working out on wages for a few years, I took up, or entered for, a homestead and pre-emption of 160 acres each. I got the title for the free homestead over four years ago, and entered for my pre-emption as a second homestead. I am now getting the title for this second homestead, which will mean 320 acres free from the Dominion Government. I had first agreed to pay $2·50 per acre for this land, or second homestead, but through some changes of the Dominion Lands Act I was allowed to take up my pre-emption as second homestead. I had 70

acres cropped in 1895 on my second homestead. The first homestead I still own, and have that nearly all in cultivation. I have a house on S.E. ¼, 36/12/27 W.M., north-west of Elkhorn, value $350; three stables and granary, 12 head of cattle, 5 horses, 90 sheep.

I am well satisfied with my change coming from the English counties. I am only sorry I did not come to Manitoba seven or eight years before I did.

From Mr. Thomas Cripps, Elkhorn, October 30th, 1895.

I, T. Cripps, of Sec. 6/13/27 W.M., near Two Creeks, Manitoba, came to this country 11 years ago. I have a homestead, 160 acres, given to me free by the Dominion Government. I have 125 acres of it in cultivation, and it is yearly giving heavy crops. The first year I rented neighbouring farms, and did well by them. I had no capital when I came from Lincolnshire County, England. I have commodious stables and a valuable stone house built on my place. I make money threshing for other farmers. I have two threshing outfits threshing in the neighbourhood. We thresh daily from 1,500 to 1,800 bushels of grain. We charge 4s. per bushel for wheat, and 3s. for oats. This quantity is for each machine—the two threshing out 3,000 bushels. I am satisfied that I came to this country. I have done well, and my prospects are good for the future.

From Mrs. Hamilton, Hamiota, October 24th, 1895.

I came to this country 16 years ago with my husband, and settled in this locality with our family of four sons. We had no money, except a few dollars for the necessaries.

My husband died four years afterwards. We occupied one half-section—a homestead and pre-emption. Since his death I homesteaded the pre-emption, being the S.W. 16/14/23 W.M. The land is good, and producing well. Most of the time the yield is heavy.

I am just completing my homestead duties, and I am applying for the title of the same. One of my sons occupies the N.W. ¼ of same section, where my husband had the first homestead. Another son is well settled east of us on the adjoining land. One son lives with me on my present homestead, where I have a house 18 × 26 ft., value $350; two stables, one 20 × 26 ft., other 18 × 50 ft., $250; granary, 14 × 18 ft. $50; milk house, 16 × 18 ft., $30.

I have 70 acres crop in 1895; 20 acres fallowed prepared for next season; 10 acres broken.

The yield per acre in this neighbourhood is over 25 bushels of wheat. I am satisfied with the locality, and my sons are all doing well around me.

From Mr. Hugh Pink, Manitoba, Crystal City, Post Office, September 16th, 1895.

In reply to your question as to how I have succeeded in Manitoba, I would beg to say that I came to Manitoba from the county of Carlton,

Ontario, in 1889. At that time I had very little means—about $100 in cash, and 3 horses—and a family of four besides myself. I at once rented a farm in Tp. 1, Range 9 W., which I cultivated; and in April, 1892, I took up a homestead, S.W. ¼ of Sec. 2, Tp. 1, Range 11 W., on which I have now fully 60 acres under cultivation, a house worth $600, 3 stables, and a granary worth at least $100, 60 acres of wire fence, 7 head of horses, 26 head of cattle, and 5 pigs. This year I have 40 acres in crop on my own place, and 60 acres on rented land. I have not threshed yet, but my wheat will yield fully 25 bushels to the acre, oats 50 to 60 bushels, and root crops abundant. I cannot say what I am really worth. I am doing well, and satisfied with the change I have made in coming here.

From Mr. A. J. Fraser, Dominion Government Land Agent, Regina, 6th November, 1895.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your circular of the 21st ultimo, No. 355711, and to inform you that I wrote letters to the principal settlers in this district, a few of the replies to which I enclose herewith. I regret that I did not receive your instructions before the farmers' busy season set in, as I would have received a greater number of replies to my communications.

This (the Qu'Appelle) district extends north and south a distance of 84 miles, by east and west a distance of 180 miles, and comprises a large area. The soil is second to none upon the American continent for agricultural and horticultural purposes, as well as for mixed farming—that is, stock-raising and agriculture combined. This year's harvest has produced an enormous yield of all kinds of grain of an excellent quality, as well as an abundance of roots and vegetables of different varieties.

With reference to those farmers respecting whom I have been able to obtain particulars, I may cite the names of a few, as follows:—

Messrs. Cullum Bros., Regina, 600 acres of crop, making 70 large stacks of wheat and 30 stacks of oats. Sixty acres of wheat already threshed yielded 1,600 bushels. The balance not yet threshed.

Mr. J. D. Hawkes, Balgonie, about 700 acres, nearly all wheat, yielding 18,000 bushels.

Mr. P. B. Kelly, Regina, about 260 acres altogether, yielding about 6,000 bushels wheat and 2,000 bushels oats and barley. Average of wheat over 30 bushels per acre, and other grain proportionately.

Messrs. Keys Bros., Pense, about 8,000 bushels wheat, besides other grain.

Messrs. Mutch Bros., Pense, 500 acres crop, 200 acres fallow. Crop excellent; expectation, about 30 bushels per acre.

Messrs. Wilkie Bros., Pense, 700 acres crop; not yet threshed, but prospects good.

Mr. Adam Trainer, Regina, about 300 acres, unthreshed, with a good prospective yield.

Messrs. Brown Bros., Regina, 450 acres. Good.

Mr. D. Macdonald, Regina, 230 acres, with a fairly good yield.

In addition to these, several others could be mentioned who have been equally successful, though having a smaller area under cultivation.

General reports of equal success have been received from all parts of the district, though I am unable to mention particulars. Foreign markets are being opened up for the exportation of grain, dairy produce, and beef cattle. I may state that about 800 beef cattle have been shipped already this year from Regina alone.

In conclusion, I may add, the unexampled success achieved by the settlers this year is already made manifest by their improved surroundings, and will have a tendency to produce, during next season, a marked increase in the immigration to this and other districts in the North-West Territories of Canada, as "contented settlers" are clearly the best immigration agents that can be procured.

From Mr. E. Brokovski, Government Land Agent, Battleford, November 22nd, 1895.

In further connection with my report of this, the district of Battleford, made on the 9th of February, 1894, at the request of the High Commissioner for Canada, I have now to state that during the seasons of 1894 and 1895 an excellent development of the stock- and cattle-raising industry has been made here.

In the summer of 1894 several sales of beef cattle were made to visiting buyers for export. It was then ascertained by local stockmen that the cattle from this district were in demand at good prices. Some of them determined to try for themselves the experiment of exporting stock.

During the summer of 1895 some 1,600 head of grass-fed cattle and 900 sheep were purchased, or collected, in this vicinity, and were shipped by railway, or driven to points east and west, and to Europe.

In addition to these export cattle, a considerable number of others have been slaughtered for local consumption; and great improvement has taken place in the number and quality of dairy cattle—the result of the establishment of two creameries in the district, which are mainly supplied with milk from the dairies of settlers. The output of butter by one of these creameries—"The Lakeside"—during the past season was 15,000 lbs., of which some 7,000 lbs. were shipped to British Columbia.

The breeding of horses is not so extensively engaged in here as in the Alberta district, except small bands for local purposes. A number of the farmers have bands of very good horses, which they are yearly improving by the importation of good stock for sires. One farmer, Mr. J. M. Macfarlane, whose farm and ranch are in Sec. 14, 41/14 W., 3rd Meridian, has a large band of Shire and Clydesdale draught horses which for quality and appearance would be difficult to match, either singly or as a band.

The condition and appearance of all classes of stock have always shown that the Battleford district has all the essential qualities of a good stock-raising region; and its freedom from disease in this respect is a marked feature of its climate. Owing to so much attention being now given to stock, the cultivation of cereals has not been extensively engaged in during the past two years. Those farmers who have continued in this pursuit this season, harvested good crops of all

classes; and the weights of grain have exceeded by nearly 10 per cent. the market standards.

There has been no instance recorded here of anyone engaged in mixed farming having failed to make a living for himself and family; and there has been absolutely no case of necessity calling for charitable assistance. Everyone willing to work has had constant employment, and the idler has had no place in this community.

One of the most remarkable instances of a settler's success in the Battleford district may be quoted as that of Mr. R. G. Speirs, a homesteader in Sec. 28, 42/16 W., 3rd Meridian. Mr. Speirs left the vicinity of Orangeville, Ontario, and arrived in Battleford in 1883, leaving behind him, until he could prepare a home for them, his wife and family. He has stated to myself and others that when he landed here his cash capital amounted to only $7—a little over £1 10s.

He obtained work on the farm of a previous settler, and was employed there until he had earned enough money to enable him to enter for a homestead for himself, and send for his family, in 1885. He is now the owner of, and farms, a homestead of 320 acres, besides being in the possession of a fair herd of cattle; and he has frequently stated that it would take a considerable sum of money to buy him out now, after ten years of work in this district. His three sons, who were lads when they arrived here, after aiding their father, are now settled upon homesteads of their own, to the extent of some 900 acres: and, in addition, they each have herds of cattle. Three daughters of this family have since married residents of this district, and have comfortable homes of their own, within reach of the parental roof.

The essence of success in this instance may be gauged by the fact that this settler had to travel over 200 miles from the line of railway before he reached the location where he intended to make a future home. That industry, perseverance, and economy, without capital, have in his case successfully accomplished this in a few years, notwithstanding the distance at that time from railway facilities. The case of Mr. Speirs is not the only one here; there are several others of a similar character. We have several young men who have found their way to this district; others who were members of the North-West Mounted Police, and who, on receiving their discharge from that force, sought employment in the vicinity, on farms or ranches, and after a year or two of experience in this way started for themselves, and have accomplished good results towards future prosperity.

The Battleford district, being still some 90 miles from the nearest railway station, is not so well known as districts through which a railway has been built, and therefore is at a disadvantage as to the means by which the intending settler might be enabled to visit it; but it is quite evident that those who have had the energy to prospect in this direction, have decided to settle here, and are earning for themselves a position and means of subsistence which will enable them to take good advantage of facilities for transport when they do arrive here, and to dispose of their produce, when others who may only arrive with the advent of the railway will have to prepare for their own necessities for the time being, without having any marketable produce to dispose of.

From Mr. R. S. Park, Government Homestead Inspector, Whitewood, Assa., November 4th, 1895.

I have the honour to report on your circular of the 28th September last, ref. 343811, in reference to the results of immigration during the past season in my district, and the condition of the settlement here.

And in accordance with your request, I am pleased to say that immigration of a foreign element, composed of Hungarians, Finlanders, and Swedes, has predominated at this station; and the most of them have brought some wealth, so that they were able to make a good start, and are now comfortably housed for the winter, with good prospects before them. They feel cheerful in their new home, and, as they are sturdy, ambitious people, there is no fear but what they will succeed.

The Swedes, Hungarians, Bohemians, Scandinavians, &c., &c., occupy some of the finest land in the Territories. These colonies are in a flourishing condition, and this year in particular it is only a rare one who cannot sell No. 1 hard, whereas other parts with greater advantages cannot boast of such successful results.

The immigration from the Old Country has been rather slow. This is owing, mostly, to other countries, such as the Argentine Republic and South Africa, having opened up new fields for the adventurers, which have not attained that success which these people expected, and as a result some few families have immigrated from there to Canada.

The settlement in my district, which comprises an area of 15,000 square miles, has increased very materially, both in numbers and progress. The settlers are getting over their difficulties, and one can see evidence on every side of a great advance, both in cultivation, in farm buildings, and in the number of cattle and horses, while the general surroundings show visible and substantial improvements. Great interest is taken by the settlers in endeavouring to better the conditions of their stock by introducing some of the very best breeds in Shorthorns, Polled Angus, Holsteins, and Jerseys; and the hearty and friendly emulation existing between them as to who will succeed best at the agricultural fairs makes one think that he is visiting, not a country scarcely 12 years old, but an old country in Ontario where years have been spent in perfecting their stock and farms.

Our settlers are well-to-do, thrifty, and industrious, and are of an advanced class. Cheese and butter factories are springing up mostly in every district, managed, conducted, and sales made by the settlers themselves, without having anything to do with middlemen.

Immigrants intending to settle in this country and in this district can have the advantages of settling amongst good farmers, on free homesteads, enjoying the first year the benefit of good neighbours, schools, churches, good roads, and nearness to markets.

The Moose Mountains as a ranching country cannot easily be beaten.

I might here state, for the benefit of those who doubt of the great progress, what a town in the North-West can do inside of ten years. Whitewood can boast of four large stores, equipped with every possible want that a settler might require; 2 drug stores, 2 blacksmiths' shops, 2 doctors, 2 notaries public, 1 lawyer, 3 churches, 1 public school,

2 lumber yards, 1 bank, 2 hotels, 1 grist mill, a hall, and a population of 500; so that, looking over the past, we have no reason to find fault—on the contrary, every reason to be satisfied—at the present prosperity and settlement of this district.

From Mr. John McTaggart, Dominion Lands Agent, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, March 31st, 1894.

The Prince Albert Land District occupies the central portion of the beautiful, fertile, and picturesque provincial district of Saskatchewan. It contains an area of about 29,000 square miles—somewhat larger in extent than the province of New Brunswick. Of this area the northerly portion, comprising 60 per cent. thereof, is regarded as unfit for settlement; but is, nevertheless, particularly valuable for its large areas of excellent spruce timber, its numerous and extensive lakes of fresh water, teeming with salmon-trout, white fish, pickerel, and other fish of a very superior quality.

The southerly portion, mainly lying south of Township 51, and containing nearly 8,000,000 acres of the most fertile land in this exceptionally fertile district, is known as "The Fertile Belt." A large extent of this area is already settled, but a very considerable portion of the very best land is still open for homesteading.

The character of the soil varies from sandy loam to heavy clay, covered in many localities with several feet of black vegetable mould; so the homesteader can suit himself with any quality of soil he may desire. All varieties of grain and vegetables grow here to perfection, and early sowing in a well-prepared soil will almost invariably ensure immunity from frost, which seldom occurs before the 20th of August in any year.

The climate is particularly healthy, and the winters, although cold, are bracing and invigorating, as well as agreeable. The only parties who hold pessimistic views regarding our winter seasons are those who have not had the pleasure of their experience. The obnoxious "blizzard" is here entirely unknown; the average depth of snow being from about 12 to 15 inches—just sufficient for good winter roads.

The summer season is also fine, with moderate rainfalls.

The district is well supplied with excellent roads leading to every farm-house, and they are kept open winter and summer.

Among the principal features of this district may be mentioned the two great rivers that traverse it—the North and South branches of the Great Saskatchewan. These two splendid streams unite their waters at what is known as the "Forks," about 35 miles below the flourishing town of Prince Albert. The North branch, in conjunction with the main stream, forms a channel for safe navigation from Edmonton to its mouth at Grand Rapids—a distance of at least 1,000 miles. The South branch is also navigable, at certain seasons, for many hundred miles. These rivers abound with fish, such as sturgeon, gold-eye, pickerel, &c., affording sport to the tourist, as well as food and delicacies to the settler.

Beside the older settlement contiguous to the town of Prince Albert, there are a number of other outlying settlements, such as Canot

River, Stoney Creek, and Melfort, Fort à La Cornepeonau, St. Louis de Langevin, Batoche, Duck Lake, Carlton, Musky Lake, Shell River, and others. All these settlements are provided with postal and educational facilities. The district is served by no less than 23 post offices, and the very liberal support afforded by the North-West Assembly is such that any four resident heads of families having 10 children of school age can form a school district of 25 square miles; the subvention of the Government varying from $300 per annum upwards, according to the class of certificate held by the teacher and the number of children attending school.

And the spiritual interests of the community also are not neglected. The various religious denominations have churches or mission houses all over the district, where religious services are held. In fine, the district is well supplied with all the essential elements of civilisation, and all, or nearly all, the inconveniences of pioneer life may be said to have no existence here.

There is, therefore, practically nothing to deter the industrious farmer from the congested portions of the older lands from immigrating here, making a comfortable and happy home, and raising his family in comfort, amidst all the advantages—educational and otherwise—of civilisation.

The chief town of this district, and from which the district derives its name, is Prince Albert, the capital of the provincial district of Saskatchewan—picturesquely situated on the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River, about 35 miles above its confluence with the South branch of the same river—having a population of about 1,500 inhabitants.

Prince Albert is the terminus of the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake, and Saskatchewan Railway—the only railway, thus far, entering the Saskatchewan Valley. It is also the prospective terminus of the Manitoba and North-Western Railway. It was incorporated in 1886, is lighted by electricity, and is supplied with an efficient telephone service. It is also well supplied with dry goods, ready-made clothing, grocery, hardware, fruit and confectionery, boots and shoes, agricultural implements, drugs, books and stationery, jewellery, and general stores, two bakeries, and a photograph gallery. The various mechanical industries are well represented, as are also the legal, medical, dental, and clerical professions. There are two commodious hotels; Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist, and Roman Catholic churches; and a branch of the Imperial Bank of Canada. Here are also situated the Registry of Land Titles Office for East Saskatchewan; the Dominion Lands, Crown Timber, and Immigration Offices for the district. There is also an immigration shed for the temporary use and convenience of incoming settlers. A court-house and a resident judge of the Supreme Court; a printing office, from which is issued the only newspaper in the district—*The Saskatchewan Times*. It is also a divisional centre of the North-West Mounted Police Force, with commodious barracks building. The educational interests of the town are served by two district and two separate schools. The central district school has four compartments, taught by as many teachers—one of these being for higher education. There is also a Roman Catholic Convent; and in

the neighbourhood is situated a Church of England College for the education and training of a native ministry.

Among the local industries may be mentioned three saw-mills, containing the necessary machinery for planing and dressing lumber; one sash and door factory, and two flour mills.

About 40 miles south-west of Prince Albert, on the line of railway, is a rising town with a promising future, named Duck Lake. This town is situated near the northerly outskirts of the open prairie country. A few miles north of Duck Lake there extends from the North to the South Saskatchewan Rivers a belt of pine timber of about four or five miles in width, which forms the line of demarcation between the plain country on the south and the Prince Albert settlement to the north, and across which the gopher or the grasshopper has never been known to penetrate. On the latter side the country assumes a different character: here the land is more undulating, and interspersed here and there with groves of poplar of greater or less extent. These groves—or "bluffs," as they are called—together with the various lakelets frequently met with, and the beautiful flora and luxuriant grasses, render this part of the country in the months of June and July beautiful and enchanting in the extreme.

In this beautiful park-like country, and within easy reach of the town of Prince Albert, there are many farms and railway lands that can be purchased at reasonable prices, and on easy terms of payment, by immigrants possessing moderate means; to such the advantages of close proximity to a ready market would more than compensate for the extra outlay. However, there is abundance of good land open for homesteading in thriving settlements that at no distant day will form commercial centres of their own.

"I have the honour to request that you will kindly forward to this office, within ten days from this date, a report based upon the undermentioned queries:—

"(1.) Give your name in full, and present P.O. address?

"(2.) P.O. address before coming to the country?

"(3.) How long have you been in the North-West?

"(4.) State your views and experience since coming to the North-West, and give any information that you think would be useful to strangers coming here."

The above circular was sent by the Government Agent at Regina to several farmers in his district. The following are some of the replies:—

Mr. Joseph Drewald, of Balgonie, formerly of Russia, writes:—

"Am well satisfied since coming here. Came to this country in 1886."

Mr. Peter Yunker, jun., of Balgonie, Assiniboia, formerly of Russia, states:—

"In coming to this country, not knowing the English language, it appeared very strange to me; but after being here but one year, learning

the ways of this country, I was rejoiced that I found such a good country for my new home. I can make a better living and fare easier than anywhere in Europe. So, therefore, will I recommend all my friends and fellow-men in Europe to come to the North-West Territories, where every man gets 160 acres of good land, and of the best soil, where you can grow a crop sooner than in any place in the world."

Mr. Jackson Harrison, of Regina, formerly of Leeds, writes:—

"Respecting my experience since coming to the North-West, I may state that I bought a homestead for which I paid $500. There are about 60 acres of good hay land on it, and about 40 acres of broken land. In the spring I sowed about 13 acres of wheat, 13 acres of oats, 1 acre of flax, and 1 of potatoes. This fall I have threshed 260 bushels of wheat, 310 bushels of oats, 15 bushels of flax, and have gathered 52 bushels of potatoes. Besides this, I have grown an abundance of garden produce, such as beetroot, onions, cabbages, cauliflowers, turnips, carrots, &c., &c. With my present experience and knowledge of the land, I am confident that a far better crop can be raised from the same piece of land in the spring. My seed was not properly put in, owing to a faulty drill.

"I have erected a commodious house on the land, have brought my mother, brothers, and sisters out this summer, and we are now comfortably settled. Respecting any advice which I might tender for strangers coming here, I may say that, with energy and prudence, a good living can be made here devoid of the care and anxiety common at home, and I would not hesitate in advising anyone with a small capital to come out here."

Mr. Thomas Watson, Regina, formerly of London, England, states:—

"Had no money when I came. Have valuable improvements on land, and own 50 head of cattle. Would not live in England again if my fare was paid to return. Would strongly recommend anyone that is willing to work to come to this country."

From Mr. R. Giles, Prince Albert, 29th March, 1894.

In reply to your inquiries as to what success I have met with in farming in the North-West, and what I think of this country as a field for immigration, I cannot better answer you than by giving a short synopsis of my own efforts in this line.

I originally came from London, England, in 1866, and immigrated to London, Ontario, where I followed my trade, viz., brass-finisher and gasfitter, until 1879, when I moved, with my family—seven in number—to the Prince Albert District, and took up 320 acres of land (W. 22/46/27 W. 2nd), and commenced farming with a capital of £400, out of which I had to pay our travelling expenses, which were heavy in those days.

I have followed farming ever since, and have been very successful. I have now 87 acres under cultivation, 13 horses, 57 head of cattle, 17

sheep, 17 hogs, and a lot of poultry. My family now number 12, and during the time I have been farming I have always been able to make a good living and have a comfortable home, and am now an independent landowner. I may mention that if I had had any experience of farming when I started I could have done much better; then the Rebellion of 1885 set me back, as I lost £275 by it.

I like the climate here; it is extremely healthy. Stock thrive remarkably well, owing to the rich pasturage in summer, and the abundance of wild hay for winter fodder.

Garden stuff attains to a perfection here seldom, if ever, excelled. Manitoba No. 1 hard wheat is now known all over the world for its superior qualities, and that grown in the North-West is even better. My wheat has never yielded less than 20 bushels per acre during the poorest seasons, and all new land has gone from 35 to 45 bushels per acre, and oats and barley always yield well. For dairying this district cannot be excelled. I have made 110 lbs. of butter per week, and have carried off prizes at the Winnipeg Exhibitions.

The land in the vicinity of me is well settled by a prosperous farming community, and we have good schools, liberally aided by Government grants, and churches sufficient to meet the present requirements. To any of my countrymen with small capital and a knowledge of farming who are desirous of bettering their circumstances by emigrating to a new country, I can honestly recommend you to come here, as I feel satisfied if you are willing to work you will succeed.

From Mr. T. B. Ferguson, the Dominion Lands Agent, Wetaskiwin, Alberta (1894).

The Dominion Lands District of Wetaskiwin is situated in the central portion of the District of Alberta, the most westerly of the Canadian North-West Territories. It extends from south to north along the line of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway a distance of some 40 miles. The railway almost bisects it, and the district lies about 100 miles to the east and 100 miles to the west of the line. Its area is about 3,000,000 acres, about two-thirds of which may be said to be suitable for agricultural purposes. The district is comparatively new, the land agency having been in existence only since the spring of 1893. This has been owing almost entirely to the absence of railway communication prior to the recent construction of the railway just mentioned. With the opening of it to settlement which this has effected, the attention attracted to it is very great. During the past immigration season the influx of settlers has been large, and a great number of homesteads have been entered for under the free grant provisions of the Land Act. This is not surprising, in view of the attractive features it presents to the agriculturist, particularly to the general farmer. It possesses a very fertile soil, the prevailing character of which is dark rich clay loam, from 12 to 18 inches deep, with a clay subsoil. It is well wooded and excellently watered, the wood being dispersed throughout in bluffs, as well as lakes of all sizes. It is also well situated in regard to markets, having a branch railway running through it which connects at Calgary, an important centre, with the Canadian Pacific Railway, and

being so located that it will be within easy access of that second great trunk line which must soon be built through the Canadian North-West, and will take its course along the North Saskatchewan River. One of the oldest settlements in it is that of the French half-breeds along the Battle River. This settlement, established long before the advent of the railway, is indicative of the choice character of the district, for the original inhabitants of the West have always been found to have located in its most desirable parts. Another evidence of the estimation in which the quality of its lands is held is demonstrated by the large area chosen within its limits by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in completing the selection of its land subsidy. No very extensive farming operations have hitherto been carried on, but it has been demonstrated that oats, wheat, and barley, and the principal root crops, can be grown most successfully. The district is not a range country, as is the southern portions of Alberta, and cattle require housing in the winter; but there is a much greater abundance of hay than in the more southerly and drier stock districts, and there is therefore no difficulty about winter fodder. Its incomparable advantages in the matter of hay and water render it certain to become a favourite district for dairying; and the interest the settlers already located in it are taking in the organisation of creameries will undoubtedly assure later arrivals facilities for the most economical manufacture of dairy products, and an established market for them. The class of farmers who should immigrate to this district is practical men with some little capital. While, however, those without some capital cannot be indiscriminately recommended here, under certain circumstances—of which, however, they must themselves be the judges—they need not be afraid to attempt to make homes in this district. The success of a Swedish settlement lately established in the neighbourhood of Red Deer Lake shows that, by the exercise of steady industry and frugality, agricultural immigrants with but little pecuniary resources have here opportunity of improving their condition not exceeded in any country. At present there is no great opening in the district for other than agricultural immigration, though a few years hence there will doubtless be requirement for a certain proportion of a more general nature. At present the only considerable town within its limits is that of Wetaskiwin, which is likely to develop into a fair commercial centre: not very far to the north, however, is that of Edmonton, and a little further distance to the south is the city of Calgary, both of which are places which will eventually be of much importance, and whose progress will react upon the agricultural district lying between them. The climate of the district is an enjoyable one, the winters not being so severe as in other portions of the North-West, owing to its proximity to the Rocky Mountains, which exert a modifying influence on the winter weather. The natural beauty of the country here is very considerable. It has a pleasant park-like appearance, and offers a very agreeable contrast to the unbroken plain regions in the more easterly parts of the North-West. It is well stocked with different varieties of game, and its lakes contain a good supply of various fish, the delicious white fish of Pigeon Lake having more than a local reputation. The wild

fruits of the district, such as strawberries, raspberries, and saskatoon berries, are plenteous, and of excellent flavour. Building material and fuel are cheap, good, and abundant. In addition to wood, there is a large extent of excellent coal, which many settlers themselves mine from the outcroppings of it in the banks of the rivers. Both to the north and the south of the district there are still more extensive deposits. About one-third of the district is surveyed for homesteading purposes, the larger area of surveyed land being in the eastern portion, to which settlement is chiefly directing itself, and where the land is on the whole of better quality than in the western portions. Except, perhaps, in the immediate vicinity of the line of railway, there is no difficulty in obtaining a free grant of excellent quality in almost any part of it. The choicest lands along the line of railway have, of course, been selected by settlers.

From Mr. J. R. Thompson, Government Homestead Inspector.

Having had some 30 years' experience as a farmer in Canada, and six years as a Homestead Inspector in Alberta, I am in a position to speak with some certainty on the several matters in this report.

The region which I inspect includes the whole of the Calgary, Lethbridge, Red Deer, and Wetaskiwin districts, with a part of the Swift Current district, and extends from the American boundary on the south to Township 49 on the north—a distance of 294 miles—and from the summit of the Rocky Mountains on the west to Swift Current on the east—a distance of 360 miles. Over this vast extent of country there is a marked variety of both soil and climate. In the southern portion of the Calgary district and the whole of the Lethbridge district the snowfall seldom exceeds 4 or 5 inches, and that for only about two months of the year. This tract of country is specially suitable for dairying and stock-raising purposes, not only on account of the variety and abundance of nutritious natural grasses which clothe its surface the year round, but also on account of the streams and springs of clear delicious water which everywhere abound. It is peculiarly well adapted to the breeding and raising of horses—an inexpensive and lucrative industry when, as here, no feeding is required, even in winter. These animals roam at large at all seasons, and usually come out in spring in excellent condition. In fact, it is universally conceded that this is the premier ranch region of America, if not of the world. The paucity of the rainfall some seasons renders grain-growing at present somewhat of an uncertainty in this particular district—a difficulty which will doubtless be got over in the near future by irrigation. And yet in fairly moist seasons the grain crops are excellent. I have known 100 bushels of oats per acre to be harvested, so generous is the soil when it gets a chance to reveal its wonderful capabilities. Under an efficient system of irrigation, to which all minds here are now turned, abundant grain harvests would be all but a certainty; and the revolution has begun. Several companies have already commenced irrigation work on a large scale, and there is probably no country in the world in which the system can be more readily applied, or would yield more gratifying

results, the numerous rivers and streams from the foot-hills and the Rockies having in some places a very rapid, and everywhere a considerable, descent.

The soil on the uplands is generally a rich clay loam, on a clay subsoil. Those who have irrigated their hay lands have had magnificent results.

Timber is plentiful among the foot-hills, and is floated down the streams to saw-mills situated as follows:—At Lee's Creek, Calgary, on the Bow River; Pincher Creek, North Fork of Old Man's River; Fort McLeod, on Old Man's River; Dewdney, on Sheep Creek; and three mills on the Red Deer River. At these points sawn lumber can be purchased at from $14 to $18 per thousand feet.

On most of the streams coal is mined by the settlers for their own use, a royalty of 10 cents per ton being charged by the Government; or each settler can purchase coal land, up to an area of 40 acres, at the fixed price of $10 per acre.

I consider the northern portion of the Calgary district and the whole of the Red Deer and Wetaskiwin districts as the best parts of Alberta for the purpose of mixed farming. The soil is good, being a dark rich clay loam from 12 to 18 inches deep.

Within the last three years towns have sprung up along the Calgary and Edmonton Railway north of Calgary in a most marvellous manner—Olds, 58 miles distant; Innisfail, 76; Red Deer, 95; Lacombe, 113; and Wetaskiwin, 152, having populations varying from 200 to 500.

From Olds northward the country does not require irrigation; rain in abundance falls during the summer, and snow in winter to the depth of 6 to 12 inches, covering the ground usually till about the middle of March. The plentiful supply of moisture in this section is owing, doubtless, to the woods which abound in the district. It is a splendid hay country, but stock must be housed in winter.

A Mr. W. N. Wood, an Englishman, who resides near Olds, had 40 bushels of No. 1 wheat, 57 bushels of barley, and 80 bushels of oats per acre the past season. He also grew some turnip seed. Mr. David Parker, of Red Deer, had 100 bushels of oats per acre last season; and other persons had large crops where the land was properly cultivated. The free grant lands have nearly all been taken up within five or six miles of the railway, but outside that there is just as good land to be had. Most of the railway lands are for sale yet at $3 per acre.

Creameries will be established this season at the following places:—Olds, Innisfail, Red Deer, and Lacombe; where the milk from 500 to 1,000 cows will be manufactured into butter at each place, and shipped in car-loads. There is an immense advantage in producing butter, eggs, pork, and beef over growing wheat, in this part of the country; for instance, a car of wheat is worth on board the cars in Calgary $250, a car of butter is worth $7,500, and a car of beef cattle is worth $1,000.

I would advise those who are intending to settle in Alberta to come direct to Calgary, where they can obtain maps and useful information about the country, at the land office. I would not

advise anyone to take up land unless they had from $800 to $1,000 to start with; and the most of that amount should be invested in stock, not in expensive machinery or buildings, as a great many do. If an intending settler has had no experience in farming, he would do much better if he would hire with a practical farmer for at least one year before starting for himself.

From Mr. F. V. Bell (late of Manchester), Leduc, Alberta, N.W.T., Canada.

I have been asked to give my experience of farming in Northern Alberta, having been in the Leduc district nearly four years, taking up a homestead when I came, and having now got my deeds for it. As compared with farming in England, the advantages are all here. The land is all that can be desired, mostly a rich loam capable of growing anything; and one great advantage is, that it does not require manure, and is most easily worked. Land also is cheap: a homestead can be had for $10, or about £2; but I would strongly advise those that can, to buy an improved farm, which can be bought from £300 to £600, according to position and improvements.

It is a great advantage for a man to be able to start right away, and be able to crop his land, but this can only be done by getting an improved farm. But of course one can start on a homestead with very much less, but it means years of extra work.

Grain can be raised with very little trouble. The average yield for wheat is 40 bushels to the acre; oats, from 40 to 75 bushels; barley, 40 to 50 bushels; and, as the expenses are very low, it means a good living. Taxes are next to nothing—only a school tax. Vegetables also are easily raised; and hay can be had for the cutting, as it grows wild. There is plenty of wood for all purposes, and coal can be had for $1 a ton.

We have splendid weather here. In the spring it is dry for a while; then we have occasional showers, that make the grain shoot right up. The summer is hot and dry, with a dew at night, and a man can put up hay without it rotting, as is a frequent occurrence in England; then the fall is fine and dry, and farmers have generally good weather to stack their grain. The winter, of course, being in a Northern climate, is at times very cold, but it is so dry that it is quite exhilarating—not at all like a winter in England. Stock do well in this country. Steers dress 500 lbs. at two years old, without being stall-fed, after they have been out all summer on the wild grass; sheep also do well, and up to the present are free from all disease and maggot. Horses can be had from $100 to $200; the cost of implements is about the same as in England. I think that if the farmers of England only knew of the advantages here they would bring their capital and families to this country, and not grind year after year, and have nothing to show for their years of work but debts and semi-poverty.

From Mr. Roger R. Cherrington, Battle River Farm, Wetaskiwin, Alberta, November 26th, 1895.

A neighbour of mine has asked me to write to you respecting my opinion of this part of the *North-West*.

Well, I left England three years last April (and am very sorry I did not leave 23 years ago). This has been the worst year I have seen in this country. We have had rather a cold summer, and harvest has been late; however, I have a splendid lot of oats, which I think will run over 70 bushels per acre. My barley is also a big crop, but the grain not so bright as last year. My wheat is also very good for the season. I have also grown splendid potatoes, turnips, and all garden produce.

My oats last year ran 75 bushels per acre, my barley 55 bushels, and my wheat 28 bushels, all of first-class quality—in fact, it was as good as I ever saw in England.

Respecting the raising of all kinds of stock, I think this country has no equal; it is wonderful how fat cattle and horses get on this prairie grass. Two of my neighbours killed a three-year-old steer each last week, and they both weighed over 800 lbs. each dressed, fed on prairie grass, *and without corn of any kind*. I am sure all English farmers must admit that speaks well for the feeding qualities of this prairie grass. Respecting butter-making, I am sure there is some of the best butter made here in the world. In fact, I say honestly I never ate any butter in England so good as the butter we make here ourselves.

I am sorry to say we have too many settlers here that are very short of capital, which will be the cause of keeping this country from getting to the front for years to come.

I should like to see more English farmers. I have had some correspondence with friends in England, but they cannot imagine what a country this is.

If the Government would pay my fare to England and back, so as I could return here by the last week in February, 1896, I would go and take samples of wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, turnips, &c., grown by myself, also photos of grain in sheaf, and grain fields, also views of harvesting and ploughing, &c., taken this year, on this my farm.

I am sorry more English farmers don't gather courage and come out here, as I am confident they are labouring under a very heavy sea in England.

From Mr. George Beatty, Red Deer, Alberta, November 15th, 1895.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 4th November. I came into the district of Alberta in the fall of 1882, and am well satisfied with the country. I am engaged in mixed farming. In the 13 years I have been farming here I have only had three failures. The first was in the summer of 1883. I sowed that year on spring breaking, so could not expect any other result but what I received—a failure. The second was in the summer of 1892, and was caused by drought and an early frost. The third was in 1894, and was caused by gophers and frost. This year, on account of the backward spring, my crop was not up to the standard, but averaged about 30 bushels per acre. As for the other years, it averaged about 45 bushels per acre.

The stock throughout the country is looking well, and, with the amount of fodder there is, should in the spring come out in good condition.

I would advise all who come to this country to try mixed farming and dairying.

From Mr. J. Wallace, Angus Ridge, Alberta, July 11th, 1895.

As there are a good many people coming into this country, and some just starting on their homesteads, who would like to know the results of three years' experience in the Wetaskiwin district, I will give mine. In the first place, I will say I have not farmed very extensively. I heard so many bad reports, I thought the best way was to go slow, and prove whether the country was any good or not. I feel safe in saying, after being here for three years, that there is not a better place on the American continent for a man with a small capital to build up a home, and if he has sons, to get them land. The land is of first quality, principally clay loam from 10 to 24 inches deep, with a clay subsoil. There are some tracts where the top is sandy loam, with a clay subsoil. For the last three crops I could not see any difference in the yield; still, I am in favour of the clay loam. I will further say I do not think this part of the country can be beaten for small grain—that is, wheat, oats, barley, and flax. Potatoes also yield well, and are of a splendid quality; there is plenty of hay for stock-raising. Stock has to be fed for three to four months each year. Since I came here all the half-breeds who have been here from six to twenty years say that until the last three years they had never more than six weeks to feed, and their horses they never feed until they take them up for work. I came here in March, 1892. I had just money enough to buy a span of ponies, one set of harness, and one plough. After I got into a house here I had only $13 left. I bought a waggon for $95, and got eight months to pay for it, at 8 per cent. interest. I had the money to pay for it before the note was due, and made it here. I have since bought horses and harness and implements, and paid for them with money made here. The first spring I rented 10 acres of land, which I sowed in oats and barley. I also planted about one acre of potatoes. The result was as follows: the oats 60 bushels per acre, the barley 41 bushels per acre, and the potatoes 250 bushels. The second year I put in 20 acres on my place, and my sons (we work together), in the following kinds of grain: wheat, barley, and oats, and about ¾ of an acre of potatoes and ½ an acre of turnips. The yields turned out (machine-measured) as follows: the wheat 33 bushels per acre, the oats 63 bushels per acre, and the barley 42 bushels per acre; the potatoes turned out 240 bushels, and the turnips 300 bushels. The third year I sowed and planted 35 acres in wheat, barley, oats, and flax; I also planted ½ an acre of potatoes. The result was as follows: the wheat 37½ bushels per acre—No. 1 hard—the oats 62 bushels per acre, and the barley 45 bushels per acre. I sowed 18 lbs. of flax, which turned out 23 bushels (machine measure), and I am certain I lost 5 bushels by the machine not having a flax rig. There were a number of Dakota men who had made a business of raising flax in Dakota, and they said the turn-out beat anything they had ever seen. They have all flax in this year. Some of my neighbours claim bigger yields of grain than mine, and in some cases they beat me; but, taking the crops all over this part, as far as I have seen, I think mine is about a fair average. I have located over 40 people since I came here, and every one of them is doing well. They were all practical farmers except two or three, who have also done remarkably well. Still, I would not advise mechanics

and labourers who have not got a practical knowledge of farming to come out here unless they have from $1,200 to $2,000 in money. Neither would I advise anyone even with a practical knowledge of farming to come out here with less than from $800 to $1,200, unless they have stock and implements; in that event less would do, according to the man's capacity for work. Work of all kinds is scarce, and when obtained, wages are low; still, I consider this the best poor man's country in the world, none excepted. There is the Saskatchewan River, a never-failing source, where any man who will work ten hours a day can make from $1·50 to $4 per day washing out gold amalgam. There are 500 men working on it this year, and room for 1,000 more. It can be worked from May until it freezes up, which generally happens in November. There is another source of wealth where any man can make good wages, and that is catching fur; it is plentiful all over the country. In the prairie parts there are plenty coyotes and foxes, and in the timber parts fine fur is plenty, with a good many silver-grey foxes. Any man who will work as hard hunting as he would have to do in the lumber woods, or on the railroad, can make better pay than either of the above-named employ. I hunt every winter, and I intend going out this coming winter. I will be pleased to furnish any information, as far as my knowledge of the country for the last three years goes. One thing I will say, there are homes for thousands who are willing to put their shoulder to the wheel, but no place for kid-gloved gents.

From Mr. John McDermott, Bear's Hill, Alberta, July 15th, 1895.

I settled here in August, 1890, and have lived on my farm since then, engaged in general farming. I have raised four garden and three field crops, and have never, in a varied experience, seen better or more abundant returns. My present crops look magnificent.

Horses, cattle, and sheep thrive well, and look happy and contented, as they well may do, for they roam at will in pastures unrivalled for feed, fragrance, and beauty.

Poultry are numerous, and noisy flocks of chickens and young ducks are numerous round the houses of settlers here. . . .

In my garden are growing native and cultivated raspberries and currants, also box, elder, ash, butternut, Russian poplars, and willows, with some native spruce and seedling apple trees.

Any able-bodied man with good sense and from $500 to $600 capital can, under the rules of the Dominion Land Law, make himself an independent home. . . .

In order to make the most of our advantages of soil and situation, we should now endeavour to establish factories of all kinds to supply us with the various things needed by civilised people. Our clothing, implements, ammunition, wire fencing, galvanised roofing, flour, oatmeal, sugar, beer, whisky, and even gold coin, could, and ought to, be made here from materials at hand. We ought to invite Ontario manufacturers to establish branches of their business here, and so avoid the cost of transportation. . . .

In conclusion, I will say that if the people who in the British Isles are renters, cottars, or labourers, could see the prospect before me,

as I write, they would come here in thousands. Hoping this may guide some people to happy homes.

From Mr. John Coleman, Forest Ranger, Edmonton, Alberta, March 24th, 1894.

In reply to your circular of the 27th December last, I beg to report that the district over which my duties as Homestead Inspector and Forest Ranger cause me to travel is about 150 miles square. This is diversified in character, containing open prairie, park-like timber land, and heavily timbered lands, and in many parts the land is of rolling character; numerous lakes and large hay meadows exist. The growth of grass is something wonderful, as there is an abundance of rain during the latter part of May and throughout June. The soil is generally a heavy black loam, from 1 to 2 feet in depth, with a clay subsoil, although there are large stretches of sandy loam in parts; in fact, a settler can have a choice of almost any character of soil, with an abundance of timber, coal, hay, and water. All the ordinary grains and vegetables give large yields and are a sure crop, if the farmer will only plant early, and properly cultivate, and know when to harvest. There is but little danger of frost till after the first week in September, although in a few swampy districts frost is known earlier. There is a great deal of grain exported each year, but the farmers find it more profitable to follow mixed farming, as the mining regions of British Columbia furnish a constantly increasing market for beef, pork, butter, cheese, and vegetables. There is enough wheat grown to supply the local demand and part of the vast country lying north. There are also four grist mills within a radius of 20 miles of Edmonton, operated seven months in each year. I may say that I have just about completed a tour of inspection of the whole district; and although there are settlers from almost every country in Europe, most of the northern and north-western American States, and every province in the Dominion, I have not heard a complaint, and all are apparently in a thriving condition, and more than satisfied with the soil, climate, and natural resources of Northern Alberta.

From Mr. W. F. Leslie, Spring Creek, Fort Saskatchewan, near Edmonton, Alberta, December, 1895.

I came here to the Edmonton district three years ago, and took up a farm of 160 acres. Although I have been in several other parts of Canada, my opinion is that the Edmonton district is the best adapted for mixed farming I have seen, and I would highly recommend it to anyone looking for a home in a new country who is not afraid of work, with a capital of $700 to $1,000, in order to buy a good team of horses, waggon, plough, and harrow, and a cow or two, and provisions to do for a year or two. Most people commencing on a new farm have not much to sell for the first two years. We have an abundance of hay, water, wood, and coal. The summers are nice; the winters are cold, but pleasant. I came from Morayshire, Scotland.

Mr. U. Harvey, of Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, writes in the same strain.

From Mr. E. A. Nash, Government Land Agent, Kamloops, British Columbia, 31st October, 1895.

Referring to the matter of your letter to the Commissioner under date 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the district controlled by this Agency, being some 400 miles in length from east to west, naturally includes a great variety of soil and climate.

From Banff to some distance west of Revelstoke, mining and lumbering are the chief industries; though there are some good farms in the neighbourhood of Golden, and the district immediately south of Revelstoke is filling up.

From about Craigellachie west to near Shuswap the rainfall is sufficient to grow good crops without irrigation. West of Shuswap irrigation is necessary to ensure good crops; but where water is available and judiciously used, large returns result.

This particular district is known as the bunch grass country, and carries large bands of cattle; these cattle feed out all the winter, and are fed more or less towards spring, according to the nature of the winter; all wise cattlemen put up sufficient hay to carry the stock through, if necessary to feed. The Salmon River and Spallumcheen River Valleys are filling up with a desirable class of settlers; the settlement called Salmon Arm, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, has in particular made great headway.

Kamloops, now a city, is well situated at the junction of the North and South Thompson Rivers; it is the principal settlement between Calgary and the coast, and continues to make steady progress both as regards building and trade.

The class of immigrants likely to do well in British Columbia is the *bonâ fide* farmer with sufficient means to keep himself for about a year; and, as each country has its own peculiar methods, I think a new arrival cannot do better than to work out for a time, meanwhile keeping his eyes open for a desirable location. Respectable young women capable and willing to go out as domestic servants are in demand at from $8 to $15 per month; for lack of these, Chinamen are employed at high wages.

The mechanic and good general labourer can usually get work without delay, and finally make a start on his own account.

Clerks and young men of education—which, though good, does not fit them for the ways of the country—do not, as a rule, easily find a place.

The climate is healthy, and, except in the mountains, not severe; the people are law-abiding, and the rough element held in subjection.

The immigrant must not start out with the idea that he has merely to land and his fortune is made; but that steady work will tell is proved by many a present settler. I may instance the case of Mr. ———, an Englishman, who made application before me a few days since for homestead patent.

It came out in evidence that he arrived here in 1890, with his blankets on his back, seeking work; in 1892 he entered N.W. ¼, 27/19/16 W. 6, and has remained thereon continuously ever since; he has now some 60 acres under cultivation, 1½ miles of fencing, house,

stable, root-house, granary, orchard, well, and ditching—total valued at $1,000, exclusive of cultivation; to complete the list, I must mention a wife and two children.

This year the crops throughout the district have been good.

Fruit-growing is becoming more universal, and will soon, I think, become an important industry.

From Mr. John S. Macdonnell, Government Homestead Inspector, New Westminster, B.C., November 2nd, 1895.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your circular letters, dated the 28th of September and the 21st of October last respectively, requesting me to report on the advantages this province offers to intending settlers, and the general prospects of this district.

In reply, I beg to state that this province affords equal inducements to intending immigrants, with moderate capital, to any part of the Dominion.

The lumber trade, which has been dull for the past few years, is looking brighter, and giving employment to a large number of men.

The fisheries cannot be surpassed in any part of the world.

The mineral resources are attracting the attention of capitalists from the eastern provinces, Europe, and the United States, resulting in giving satisfaction for the money invested.

Stock-raising is carried on with success, as we have a local demand for all cattle raised.

The past season has been the most favourable we have had since 1883 for the farmers in the district. The hay crop has never been better, and, with the exception of a small area in the bottom land of the Fraser, the grain crops were housed in good condition. From inquiries made in the different localities throughout the district, the following has been the yield per acre:—Wheat, 2,000 lbs.; oats, 2,000 lbs.; peas, 3,000 lbs.; hay, 2 tons. Root crops of all kinds have turned out well, the supply being equal to the demand. Prices for the above are about 25 per cent. lower than last year, which are—Wheat, 1 cent; oats, $\frac{3}{4}$ cent; peas, $1\frac{1}{4}$ cents; potatoes, $\frac{1}{2}$ cent; turnips, $\frac{1}{4}$ cent.

There has been an abundant fruit crop, the supply being equal to the demand, apples selling at $1 per box of 50 lbs.

The past season has been most favourable for clearing land, which has been taken advantage of throughout the district.

Several families from the State of Washington have purchased land from private parties and settled in this district within the past six months; and a number of others from the same State are looking for investments, as our laws afford them greater protection, our school facilities are far superior, and taxes less.

I may also add that the production of butter and pork has been at least one-third more than heretofore, and selling at a lower price.

When some four or five thousand acres—Sumas Mountain, Stone River, and elsewhere—of land are surveyed, and come under the new regulations, it will greatly add to the welfare of the district.

From Mr. John McKenzie, Dominion Lands Agent, New Westminster, British Columbia (1894).

Report on New Westminster District, B.C.

Referring to pages 82 to 87 of the Dominion Hand-Book for 1894, I beg to supplement the general information therein contained by special information in respect to the New Westminster Dominion Lands District, which lies immediately next to the international 49th parallel boundary and the waters of the Pacific Coast.

This district extends eastwardly a distance of about 75 miles, covering the whole of the lower Fraser Valley, and thence northerly about an equal distance through the Cascade Mountains, which are not yet surveyed to any extent.

The Canadian Pacific Railway is the centre line of this belt, which is in all 40 miles wide; and the Fraser River flows throughout the whole length, in close proximity to the railway.

The lower course of the Fraser receives five large tributaries from as many large lakes within the belt on the north, and these lakes are generally surrounded by high snowy mountains. The cities of Vancouver and New Westminster—about 10 miles apart—are located at the westerly end of this belt, the former at the open sea terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway on Burrard Inlet, and the latter at the fresh-water terminus of the branch line on Fraser River, about 15 miles from its mouth.

The view of the mountains fringing the north and east sides of the Fraser River Valley, and of the lower courses and outlet of the river, as seen from the higher levels—320 feet—of the city of New Westminster, is very beautiful, and admired by all visitors.

There are three saw-mills of large capacity at New Westminster, and ships are loaded there for South America, Australia, and China from time to time; and river steamers ply daily to the east end of the valley, calling at all points where freight and passengers offer. Until the opening of the Canadian Pacific Railway for traffic in 1886, the district was sparsely settled, but since that time nearly every 160-acre parcel has been taken up. The lands being timbered, and the people chiefly having little capital, only small clearings are made as yet.

These settlers find that it is better to hold smaller areas and cultivate them; and, therefore, many are subdividing and selling to new-comers their surplus lands. This course of procedure will admit of a large population in the valley. Already roads are being opened out around every square mile, at great cost, owing to the clearing of the timber. And the importance of the valley may be gathered from the fact that out of 166 country schools in the whole province—of great extent, including Vancouver Island—there are 64 such schools in the Fraser River Valley.

And besides the ordinary farm lands now occupied, there are about 60,000 acres of grass lands which have been hitherto subject to annual inundation of the Fraser River in the months of June, July, and August, but which are now in the process of reclamation by dyking

operations. These lands will be placed on the market in the course of a year; and as soon as the dyking works shall have been fully tested there will be ready sale for them.

The soil and subsoil from these lands have been already analysed, under the direction of our Department, and have been found to contain all the elements of great fertility.

The climate of this district has been usually described as somewhat similar to the South of England. I may, however, set forth the usual weather. The months of July and August are generally quite dry; the months of May, June, September, and October are characterised by gentle showers at night; while November and December are very rainy and foggy; January and February are marked by a week or more of cold weather, occasional snowstorms and sleet, when the Fraser River is generally covered with ice, and steamers are laid off for repairs.

During March and April considerable rain falls; and here I wish to point out the great desirability of the under-draining of lands, so that the crops may make early progress and ripen before the fall rains set in. I have observed that the farmers who have adopted this plan experience no trouble in securing their grain while the weather is dry and warm. The clearing away of the forest will doubtless lessen the rainfall; but, the location being north of 49 latitude and near to the mountains, it is only natural to expect variations in the seasons.

Observations for seven consecutive years prior to 1889 at New Westminster showed the lowest temperature to be 7°, and the highest 92°, with an annual mean of 47·9°. The average yearly rainfall was 59·66 inches.

It is to be noted that the nights in summer are always delightfully cool.

After a very searching examination of the various settlements of the province, the Department of Agriculture located the British Columbia Experimental Farm at Agassiz, in the eastern end of the Fraser River Valley. Here experiments are continually being made in all lines of agricultural products and trees requiring different soils, exposures, and elevations.

The importance of this farm is as yet but feebly appreciated, but as population increases and agricultural intelligence spreads the effect will be widely felt for good.

Already nearly every new clearing contains a small young orchard, with a variety of small fruit vines and bushes.

With the growth of the district there have sprung up several centres of population. Of these Mission City is important. It lies in the heart of the district, and is the point of junction of main line, Canadian Pacific Railway, with branch running southward to connect with North Pacific Railroad and Great Northern Railroad, in the United States. Langley and Chilliwack, on the south bank of the Fraser River, lie in the midst of flourishing settlements. And Cloverdale, on the N.W. and Southern Railway, running south from city of New Westminster, promises to be an influential village.

In conclusion, I beg to draw special attention to a few points of prime importance:—

(*a.*) The Hand-Book mentions $500 as the minimum sum required

to make a start; but now that new-comers must purchase lands in the settled parts at prices varying from $8 to $20 and over, it would be well to have from $1,000 to $2,000—although experienced farmers might, and do, succeed with less.

(*b.*) New arrivals should take a little time—say two weeks, or more—to study up the various settlements before making a choice; and before signing any agreements or paying over any money the title should be known.

The Agent of Dominion Lands, acting also as Immigration Agent, will always be ready to explain any difficulties which may present themselves, and assist in their solution. Strangers are earnestly cautioned against dealing with irresponsible parties sometimes met with in the cities.

(*c.*) Strangers should study to discriminate between farming lands, properly so called, and speculative property—often costly to improve—in the neighbourhood of the towns.

(*d.*) The new settler should for the first month make his headquarters at one of the villages or towns easy of access, while making his explorations. The families thus become acquainted with the educational system. In this connection it may be observed that the public schools system is maintained at a high standard; and there is a high school at New Westminster and at Vancouver, also colleges for the higher education.

(*e.*) Parties with limited means intending to come to British Columbia should write in advance for specific information on certain points, asking such questions as may occur to them. The ideas entertained by them should be set forth, so that the agent may have an opportunity of correcting false impressions.

(*f.*) There are many other points not dwelt upon in this report, such as the fishing and lumbering industries, which are difficult to understand without a personal inspection. I have passed by the names of the different national, benevolent, and secret societies and orders, which are represented everywhere, and where strangers are always welcome to their fellowship.

(*g.*) So far as I can gather from nearly 14 years' residence in British Columbia, the people who have come here to settle in good faith, and who have attended to their farms, are progressing favourably.

I do not think they could have better advantages elsewhere.

The wave of financial depression which affected the whole world has been felt most in the cities where over-speculation had deranged business. Matters are now improving, and there is every prospect of healthful progress for the future.

THE HARVEST OF 1895 IN THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

(Extracts from a letter from the Managing Editor of "The Toronto Globe," who spent some weeks in the North-West and witnessed the harvesting operations. Published in "The Globe" of October 19th, 1895.)

Winnipeg, September 25th (Special).—The Canadian who has not seen Western Canada has not reached his full stature, and can have but a poor appreciation of the magnificent estate of his countrymen. . . .

Grain and Live Stock.

There is in the province of Manitoba a population of less than 200,000, and of these 25,000 are farmers. The output of these farmers for this season in grain alone is estimated at 60,000,000 bushels, and there is probably room in the province for at least 100,000 farmers, and a proportionate increase in output of grain and stock. During this season about 23,000 head of cattle have been shipped from the North-West and Manitoba to the Atlantic seaboard, and it is estimated that about 17,000 more will be shipped—a total of 40,000 head. It is calculated that it will take 50,000 cars to move 30,000,000 bushels of wheat, and about 30,000 cars for 30,000,000 bushels of other grain, and therefore between 70,000 and 80,000 cars will be employed in moving this year's Western grain crop. One also gets a hint of the enormous crop produced by the 25,000 farmers of Manitoba at every railway station where the great elevators tower into view. These, as I have argued, are at least an evidence of commercial faith in the future of the country, and, in case reasonable competition can be permanently assured, a great aid and convenience to the marketing of the crop. The farmer who has easy access to an elevator does not require to provide granary accommodation. He takes his grain direct from the thresher to the elevator, and is thus saved a percentage of the labour and cost of farming in the older provinces. But the more prosperous farmers of Manitoba are building granaries, and evidently deem it wise to have the necessary facilities for storing their grain, in order that they may sell as suits their convenience. . . .

Yield per Acre.

The August estimate of the Department of Agriculture put the yield of wheat at 25 bushels to the acre. As an average this may hold fairly well, but there is no doubt that in all the best wheat districts of Manitoba there are many hundreds of acres where the yield will go up to 30, 35, and even to 40 or 50 bushels to the acre. For example, we have reports of a yield of 47 bushels to the acre at Belmont; of 35, 40, and 50 in the Wawanesa district; of 30 bushels at Rosebank; of an average yield of 47 on 100 acres at Baldur; of a five-acre field on the farm of Mr. Dougald C. Gillespie, of Douglas, 13 miles east of Winnipeg, running up to 252 bushels, and of 40 acres running 45 bushels to the acre; of a yield of 1,193 bushels, or an average of 57 to the acre, from 21 acres on the farm of Mr. Charles Cuthbert at the Portage, and perhaps a general average on the Portage Plains of 35 to the acre; of 35 to 40 bushels to the acre in the Emerson district; of a 40-acre field on the farm of Mr. C. A. Irvine at Boissevain which gave 42 bushels to the acre; of 47 bushels to the acre on the farm of Mr. D.

Steedsman at Deloraine: of 6,000 bushels from 97 acres of wheat on the farm of Mr. R. J. Steward, of Camille; of 40 bushels to the acre on the farm of Mr. R. Latimer, and of 60 to the acre on the farm of Mr. Walter Turnbull, both of Holland; of 40 bushels of wheat and 100 bushels of oats to the acre on the farm of Mr. James Dale, of Glenboro': and of a yield of 4,500,000 bushels within a radius of 15 miles of Brandon. The average, however, is preserved by the fact that there has been injury by frost in some districts where crops were late and ripening slow. This season, notwithstanding its wonderful harvest, will furnish examples of failure, partial or complete, in Manitoba as well as in the Territories. . . .

Causes of Failures.

We have heard a good deal of the failures in Manitoba and the North-West. The failure has his mouth always at one's ear. His tale is never told. But the great mass of prosperous settlers are less concerned to trumpet their successes abroad. They are probably well content to go on from year to year sowing and reaping their crops, increasing their herds, beautifying their homes, and rearing their families in the blessedness and plenty of a fruitful land. There have been failures in Manitoba due to the country, to frost, drouth, or hail; but there have been many more failures due to improvident farming or to utter ignorance of all sound methods of agriculture. In the flush of the boom era the farmer, like the speculator, got the notion that he could reap where he had not sown, and that farming was merely a summer pastime. In many cases this notion was encouraged by a phenomenal crop. In consequence there were failures from careless husbandry, failures from reckless assumption of debt and interest obligations; and for the faults of unthrifty men, and the losses due to ignorance of climate and conditions of soil and tendency of seasons, the country suffered out of all proportion to the percentage of failures, and out of all proportion to the real drawbacks of the country. The wise policy for the new-comer, as pithily put to me by Mr. Richard Waugh, of *The Nor'-West Farmer*, is, "Begin low, and go slow." The settler must not come here, as hundreds have come in years past, predetermined to farm after the English fashion, or the Ontario fashion, or some other outside fashion. All that he knows of farming he can turn to advantage in Manitoba, as elsewhere, but he must farm after the Manitoba fashion, study the methods and conditions by which the best men in the country are succeeding, and be governed by their experience. . . .

Two main causes have operated to retard settlement in Western Canada—(1) the boom of the early eighties, discouraging investors and prejudicing the reputation of the country; (2) false methods and crop failures, due to lack of trustworthy data respecting soil and climate. But now the settler has the experience of years whence he may draw instruction. He is certain, where his forerunners were only guessing. He has branch railways and market facilities, and he buys his farm implements at half the price of 12 years ago. True, against this he must put the fall in grain prices; but this, again, is offset in some measure by a general drop in the value of his purchases; and besides, as respects his position in the market, he but shares the fortune of his competitors all over the world.

There are old-settled districts in the province—old as the word goes

in Manitoba—where a crop failure is now well-nigh unknown. This is true of the Portage Plains. For 15 or 20 years there has been no general failure from frost, drouth, or other cause in the Portage country. . . .

As there are districts in Manitoba especially adapted to wheat, so there are districts that offer special facilities for stock-raising. Westbourne, they tell me, is a good grazing district. In the Minnedosa country and west 100 miles stock can be profitably raised with a little winter feeding. Beyond Yorkton and in the Saskatchewan country are good cattle districts, and feeding can be carried on with some winter help. The grass cures itself upon the plains, and is of first-rate quality. In the Pilot Mound district stall-fed cattle are raised successfully. In the Star Mound neighbourhood, 10 or 12 miles east of Crystal City, they raise fine cattle. In the north-western district wheat is perhaps a precarious crop; but oats give a splendid yield, and it is said to be profitable there to feed oats in the sheaf. It seems that all over Manitoba there is good grazing country right in the heart of the wheat belts, or, at least, bordering on the best grain areas; and the incoming settler should seek to learn the local conditions, and understand the local aptitudes, before he determines finally upon the character of his operations. It is just to add, also, that in stock-raising, as in grain-growing, transportation rates make in favour of Manitoba, and should not be left out of the calculation. . . .

Wheat Fields.

As we ran into the Lasalle settlement we got our first sight of the prairie wheat fields. Then on for hours and hours we pass over an enchanted land, through mile upon mile of yellow, swinging grain, clean-stemmed, stalwart, triumphant, rare in its splendour, and spendthrift in its promise. As we ascend the Pembina Mountains the vision sweeps out east, north, and south, and the whole land lies at our feet radiant in its beauty. So from Pilot Mound we look out over 20 miles of wheat fields. All around the broad, rich, gleaming landscape, as though the arching sky had dropped a circle of its sunshine and spilled it from the hilltop over all the wide extending plain. Here a stretch of pasture, green and soft and quiet; there a fallow bare and brown; yonder a bunch of cattle on the hillside; beyond a town, with its glinting spires and towering elevators. From Napinka to Souris, on the South-Western and Souris Branch Railroad, is one long belt of golden splendour, the fields yellow to the harvest as far as the eye could see, and the caressing wind sweeping over the plain, catching the wheat here and there, bowing the royal heads, and patching the glorious landscape with sombrer colours. Again, on the Manitoba and North-Western road, as one passes along the foot of the Riding Mountains, one of the fairest pictures that human eye ever beheld lies outspread on every hand, stretching away beyond one's utmost reach of vision. In many fields three, or even four, binders follow at one another's heels, ribbing the earth with the golden sheaves; and often one can barely see the horses' backs, or the sweep of the rakes above the standing crops, and often the stookers are concealed behind the shocks. The grain stands clean, erect, and strong. On many farms the noxious weeds have been pretty thoroughly subdued. No meaner crop possesses these royal wheat lands. I stand nearly 6 feet high, but in many of

the fields I entered the grain measured to my chin, and in some cases almost to my full height. There are, in consequence, enormous crops of straw, and much of this goes to waste. But it will not be always so. As stock-raising becomes more general the demand for straw will become greater, and as the lands grow older manure will have an increased value. Even now on many of the best farms all available material is turned into the fertilisation of the soil. . . .

How to Succeed.

H[e (one of the local farmers)] thinks one of the great faults of many of the farmers of Manitoba is a desire to farm too much land, and the inevitable result is slovenly farms and dirty crops. He believes that any man with snap and judgment can succeed in Manitoba, but he must be economical, work hard, and go slow at first, and should have a small capital—say $1,000. He may start with less, perhaps, but his chances are more than proportionately increased if he is able to start with a fair working capital. There are, however, many prosperous farmers in the province who started with very small capital on rented farms, and remained on them in some cases for years before purchasing.

There is a group of Scarboro' farmers on the plains who have splendidly proved what good farming can accomplish in the West. Their farms are free of weeds and wire-fenced. They have roomy and artistic farm-houses, set in oak bluffs, gardens that are a mass of bloom, substantial outbuildings, and great wheat patches that are a king's possession. . . .

A host more [of other farmers than those named in the report] could be named to prove that there is successful farming in Manitoba, and that the man who works in sympathy with the best methods prospers and accumulates. All these have made money on the Portage Plains, but one will learn of others who started perhaps under more favourable circumstances, and failed through their own mismanagement. And, as I have said, one failure speaks louder than a multitude of successes. There may be a touch of enthusiasm in this writing; but where is there a Canadian but feels a thrill of pride in the possession of this Western country? It has its disadvantages. The climate is severe. The winter season is long.

Climate.

But every country has its drawbacks. In the mass the farmers of Manitoba do at least as well as the farmers of Ontario; and what a rush for settlement we would have if these lands were in Ontario! Kansas has its hot winds. The Dakotas have no better climate, are more subject to hail and blizzards, and have a less fruitful soil than Manitoba. One grows into a climate. Frost is beaten back as cultivation extends and conditions change. Drouth strikes no general blow, and cannot be considered a danger peculiar, or even special, to Manitoba. Then, if there were greater risks, we would have to concede that there is no other grain land on the continent equal to the Western prairie, and perhaps no pasturage that will rank with the native prairie grasses. No one expects to find a perfect agricultural country. It is, after all, a balancing of chances and capabilities, and if we render our judgment in candour, and in the light of actual achievement, there seems to be no other conclusion open than

that Manitoba is the best grain province in the Confederation, and as a stock country will hold a scarcely inferior position. . . .

English Tenant Farmers.

The English tenant farmer who comes here willing to farm after the methods of the experienced prairie farmer—and he has little to learn, save to take advice—will very soon become his own landlord, and very soon establish his prosperity upon an enduring basis. . . .

Dairying, &c.

Of course all the world knows that the province grows the finest roots and vegetables. Splendid hay crops also. A score of creameries, and more than two score cheese factories, prove the rapid development of dairying. What more is to be said? Here we have a magnificent estate, and it is our business to develop on these broad spreading lands a civilisation that will be worthy of a British stock and of British traditions. We have here now a splendid population. Among its leaders in Church, State, and trade are some of the best sons of old Canada. The sway of law and order is as absolute as in any old land on earth. There are schools in every settlement. There are branch railways through all the fertile districts. There is an interesting social life, an enterprising commercial life, a keen political life. Here are virgin lands and an advanced civilisation; the opportunities of a new settlement, the comforts, conveniences, and advantages of an old community. The country stands open to all the world, and man cannot long neglect a land that God has filled so full of plenty.

AMERICAN EMIGRATION TO THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

(*An American estimate of the capabilities and prospects of the great unoccupied land reserves of Western Canada as a field for colonisation.*)

In the October (1895) issue of the *New England Magazine*, of Boston, Mass., Mr. S. A. Thompson contributes a singularly striking and interesting paper on the inquiry he personally conducted on the spot in the course of that year on the subject of the emigration which is taking place annually from the United States to the Canadian North-West. His investigation embraced the causes which have brought about this movement; the prospects of the emigration becoming permanent; and, lastly, the resources and capabilities of the region in question as a field for successful agricultural settlement.

The following extracts from Mr. Thompson's article speak for themselves. As has been said, Mr. Thompson first got his facts personally, and on the spot.

" . . . Little reflection was needed to make it evident that the subject could not be satisfactorily studied at long range, so I decided to follow these American emigrants to their Canadian homes, in order that I might learn from their own lips the conditions out of which they have come, and see with my own eyes the conditions into which they have gone, and thus be enabled to reach intelligent conclusions concerning the two great questions to which all others connected with the inquiry are subsidiary. These are:

"1st. Are the causes underlying this movement local and temporary, or widespread and permanent? or, in other words, is emigration from the United States likely to decrease and disappear or to continue to increase in volume?

"2nd. If the stream of American emigration is to be perennial, is it likely to continue to flow in the same direction? that is to say, is there an area of unoccupied land in the Canadian North-West sufficient to accommodate a great volume of immigration, wherein the soil, climate, and other conditions are such as to provide support and promise prosperity for a large population?

"Accordingly, a number of weeks were devoted to a journey through Manitoba, Assiniboia, Alberta, and a portion of British Columbia, during which, in addition to the necessary travel by rail, many hundreds of miles were traversed by waggon, in order to meet and talk with the settlers, some of whom live 50 miles or more from the nearest station. The facts and conclusions of this article are presented, therefore, as a result of this personal investigation, supplemented by correspondence and a study of the records and reports of the various departments of the Dominion Government."

After referring to the interchange of population between Canada and the United States which has always taken place from the earliest times, Mr. Thompson continues:

"The particular movement of population under consideration—that is to say, American emigration to the Canadian North-West as distinguished from the older portions of the Dominion—began in the earlier years of the last decade. . . .

"Only the most fragmentary indications exist, however, as to its volume during these earlier years—such, for instance, as the fact that 1,898 settlers from the United States made use of the privileges of the Immigration Hall in Winnipeg in 1885. Even in 1891 no official record was kept, but the Commissioner of Dominion Lands estimates the number of American settlers during that year at 400, which would represent some 1,200 souls. In 1892 no less than 513 homestead entries were made by settlers from the United States, representing 1,552 persons. . . .

"In the following year the number of American settlers increased to such an extent that more detailed records were begun, and have since been kept, as appears from the following table, which shows the number of homestead entries made by settlers from the United States during the calendar years 1893 and 1894, the States from which they came, and the number of souls in their families."

These may be summarised as follows:—1893, 818 entries, representing 2,360 souls; 1894, 850 entries, and 2,588 souls. The great majority of the emigrants came from the North-Western States—viz., Minnesota, the two Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas—and smaller bodies from Michigan, Wisconsin, Utah, Washington, and several of the New England States.

"For the four years named the total number of emigrants is 7,700, which takes no account of those who have settled in towns or villages, or who have bought lands instead of taking homesteads. While the aggregate is almost absurdly small as compared with the

immigration, the essential facts are that emigration has begun and is steadily increasing in volume. . . ."

Mr. Thompson points out that the causes which have brought about the present movement vary with each different State or group of States whence it is derived. In the case of a considerable portion of emigration which proceeds from the "arid or sub-humid" regions of the United States, the cause is to be found in the fact that the settlers, "misled by the marvellous fertility of the soil made manifest in years of exceptional rainfall, have again and again pushed the line of settlement far beyond the line of safety, carrying the attempt to conduct farming operations by ordinary methods well into the arid region, only to see the hopes of prosperity slowly but surely fade through weeks of cruel drought, or blasted in a single night by the breath of the simoon. In February, 1890, Major J. W. Powell made the statement before the Committee on Irrigation of the House of Representatives, that there are parts of Kansas which had thus been settled and abandoned no less than three times within the preceding 20 years. A considerable portion of the emigration from Kansas and Nebraska is due to this cause."

Forest fires, such as have devastated portions of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, constitute another cause of emigration. These, however, are but minor causes. The greatest cause is the

EXHAUSTION OF THE PUBLIC LANDS—

a fact that must render the permanence of the emigration an ever-growing number.

"The last cause of emigration which I shall name, and the greatest as well, is the practical exhaustion of the public lands which are available for individual settlement and cultivation by ordinary methods. The Commissioner of the General Land Office estimates the total amount of vacant public lands existing in the various States and territories (exclusive of Alaska) at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1894, at 606,040,313 acres. Of this vast total, 475,000,000 acres, in round numbers, lie in the distinctively arid States. Nearly 114,000,000 acres more lie in the sub-humid States, and the most of this is in the arid portions of those States. Only 17,000,000 acres of public land remain in all the eastern half of the United States. Of this amount, 7,819,185 acres are situated in the northern States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Missouri, and 9,346,743 in the southern States of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Minnesota has the largest unsettled area—5,623,478 acres—but Arkansas is a good second with 4,632,278, these two States containing nearly 60 per cent. of all the vacant lands east of the arid region.

"Quality is quite as important as quantity, and when from the total amount of vacant public lands we take not only those which are arid, but also all those tracts which are unsuited for agricultural uses because too sandy and barren, too swampy, too stony, too heavily timbered, or too rugged and mountainous, the remainder will be found to be startlingly small.

"The public lands which are available for individual settlement and suitable for cultivation by ordinary methods are practically exhausted, and it will not be many months before they are completely exhausted. All the vacant lands in all the States east of the arid region

are not equal in area to the lands which have been patented in each of many recent years. At the dawn of the new century the only public lands will be the arid lands."

The reclamation of land in the arid regions by irrigation works on the most extensive scale can never have more than a limited influence on the general problem; and the general emigration, both from America, and, above all, the surplus population from Europe, will inevitably take the line of least resistance—the direction of the vast unoccupied areas of land "available for individual settlement and suitable for cultivation by ordinary methods," offered in Manitoba and the Canadian North-West.

Mr. Thompson thereupon proceeds to inquiries on the suitability of the region in question, and to disabuse Americans of their general ignorance on the subject.

"To the average American the Canadian North-West is an absolute *terra incognita*. In an article by Mr. C. Wood Davis, in the *Arena* for May, 1891, on the Wheat Supply of Europe and America, the statement is made that to the north of the international boundary there is only a narrow fringe of land capable of producing wheat—a strip so insignificant that it is not worthy of consideration. In an interview with Mr. Blaine, in which the question of a ship canal from the Great Lakes to the sea was under discussion, I found that even a man of such wide and varied information as the great Secretary of State had accepted this ridiculous statement as the truth. The facts are that wheat can be, and for many years has been, successfully grown at Fort Simpson, a Hudson Bay Company post lying at the junction of the Liard and Mackenzie Rivers near the intersection of longitude 122 degs. west and latitude 62 degs. north. If the average citizen of New York ever thinks of Winnipeg at all, he probably has a hazy idea that the capital of Manitoba lies somewhere in the Arctic regions; but Fort Simpson is as far north-west of Winnipeg as Winnipeg is north-west of New York. And not only is wheat raised at this far north-western point, and wheat of a finer quality than was ever produced in New York State, but rye and oats are grown 200 miles beyond that, and barley and potatoes are ripened 200 miles still further on, at old Fort Good Hope, beyond the Arctic circle. . . .

"Canada as a whole is larger than the United States, excluding Alaska. The provinces and provisional districts of the Canadian North-West, corresponding nearly to our States and territories, have an area of 1,262,600 square miles, which is about equal to the whole of the United States east of the Mississippi River plus one tier of States west of it. But we will leave out of present consideration the 400,000 square miles of Keewatin, much of which lies in the barren grounds west of Hudson's Bay; the 382,000 square miles of British Columbia, with its untold wealth of forests, fisheries, and mines, and its marvellous mountain scenery, because agriculture will never be the principal industry of that beautiful province, and we are considering the question mainly from an agricultural standpoint; and even Athabasca, with its area of 122,000 square miles, because American emigration has not yet gone so far afield, there being, in fact, no settlements of any kind except a few trading posts and mission stations.

"We have left, then, the province of Manitoba and the districts of

Assiniboia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, forming a compact territory, extending about four hundred miles north and south, and nine hundred miles east and west, and embracing an area of 359,000 square miles. If we draw a line through Harper's Ferry from the northern boundary of Pennsylvania to the southern line of Virginia, and take all west of that line to the Missouri River, embracing part of the two States named and all of West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa, we shall have an American territory equal in extent and area, and in no wise superior in agricultural resources, to the Canadian territory under consideration. Of course it is not meant that exactly the same agricultural products will flourish in both these regions. Indian corn and tobacco will probably never be staple crops in the Canadian North-West, although I have some perfectly ripe corn from the shore of Bittern Lake, in Alberta, and at Edmonton, in the same district, I saw cigars made from home-grown tobacco. But it is claimed that one region will support as large a population as the other.

"Climatic conditions are substantially the same throughout this great area, with one important exception. The arid region reaches across the international boundary, and includes in its grasp about 80,000 square miles of Canadian territory. According to Mr. William Pearce, superintendent of mines, the leading Canadian authority on irrigation, the arid region of the Canadian North-West is bounded on the north by a line beginning where the 102nd meridian crosses the international boundary, and running north-westerly to latitude 51 degs. 30 mins., and thence west to the Rocky Mountains. It is estimated that there is a sufficient water supply for the irrigation of 8,000,000 acres: and as each acre irrigated is said to make five additional acres available for pasturage, it seems probable that almost all of the 50,000,000 acres of arid Canadian lands will be reclaimed either for agricultural or pastoral purposes. The Mormons in Southern Alberta state that they find the 'duty' of water nearly three times as great as it is in Utah, which is a large advantage; but a still greater advantage arises from the fact that both the land and the water are under one control. . . .

"Altitude affects climate no less than latitude, and the great continental plain of North America decreases steadily in altitude from south to north. In Mexico it is two miles high. Denver is 5,200 feet above sea level, while Edmonton is but 2,158. The valley of the Peace River at Fort Vermilion is but 1,000 feet; and Fort Simpson, on the Mackenzie, is but 300 feet above the Arctic Ocean.

"The great Japan current, the Gulf Stream of the Pacific, is caught by the Aleutian peninsula and turned southward along the coast of Alaska and British Columbia, modifying the climate of the Pacific coast just as the Gulf Stream modifies that of England and Norway. Ice thick enough to skate on is seen at Sitka only once or twice in a generation.

"The Rocky Mountains, which in Colorado stand 20 degs. away from the coast, are but 10 degs. away in latitude 56 degs.; and the pass by which the Peace River breaks its way through the Rocky range from west to east is but 2,800 feet above sea level, or more than a mile lower than the summit station on the Union Pacific Railway in Wyoming. Across this mountain barrier, so much diminished both in width and

height, come the warm Pacific winds which make the climate of Edmonton actually milder than that of Winnipeg.

"It is not meant by this mention of the Pacific winds to convey the idea that the region about Edmonton is subject to severe winds, for the absence of wind is one of the most remarkable features of this surprising climate. Only once in the year 1893 did the velocity of the wind at Edmonton exceed 12 miles per hour, and then it was only 21. . . . Yet it is this constant wind which makes this region possible for ranching, for it sweeps the ranges clear of snow so the herds can feed and fatten on the grass, self-cured upon the stalk.

"Another factor in the climate, and one which gives an explanation of the extraordinary rapid growth of vegetation in far northern lands, is the increased length of the summer days in high latitudes. In Central Ohio the longest day is 15 hours; but Edmonton has over two hours and Fort Simpson four hours more sunshine than this. Under the influence of this long-continued sunshine, vegetation is urged forward at a rate unknown in lower latitudes. Archbishop Clut states that the trees about Fort Simpson pass in a single week from bud to perfect leaf; and I have seen soft-maple trees at Moosejaw which have made a growth of more than five feet in a season.

"A word must be said about the winters, concerning which there is so much misapprehension. No true conception of the comfort or discomfort of any given climate can be obtained from a record of temperature alone. Humidity is of as much, if not more, importance; and the velocity of the wind must not be left out of the account. In the crisp, dry atmosphere of the North-West the writer has experienced temperatures of 40 degs. below zero without discomfort, and, while wearing exactly the same clothing as in the other case, has been chilled to the marrow in the moisture-laden air of the Atlantic coast when the thermometer registered 10 degs. above. The winters are no longer in the valley of the North Saskatchewan than in Iowa, and, if anything, are more enjoyable, because there is so much less wind. In that respect Manitoba is more like the Dakotas; but around Edmonton the blizzard is unknown.

"The question of a market is one of great importance. Edmonton is a thousand miles from Winnipeg by rail, and it is obvious that the farmer about Edmonton cannot raise wheat in competition with the Manitoba grain-grower who is so much nearer to Liverpool; but I firmly believe that this will ultimately prove to be an advantage rather than a drawback. If we take up our compasses again, we shall see that when Churchhill Harbour, on Hudson Bay, has been developed into a great seaport, with lines of railway radiating south and west, Edmonton will be more nearly on an equality with Winnipeg. This Hudson Bay outlet is the dream of the whole Canadian North-West, for Churchhill Harbour is nearer to Liverpool than New York is, and work is now in progress on a railroad from Winnipeg to this point. Edmonton will some day be a station on a line which will reach the Pacific through the lowest pass in all the Rocky range.

"But these things lie some distance in the future, and present developments must be made in accordance with present conditions. Present conditions compel the settler to turn his attention to mixed farming rather than to wheat-growing, and to ship finished products

in the shape of cattle, hogs, butter and cheese, rather than raw material. The development of lumbering and mining in British Columbia will give an ever-increasing market toward the west, which may possibly be extended also by the opening of China to foreign trade, which is one of the probable results of the recent war.

"Speaking generally, the southern portion of the territory under consideration consists of treeless plains; the northern portion is wooded; while the central portion is a combination of groves and open glades and lakes, park-like in its beauty, and perfectly adapted to agricultural needs.

"The fuel question is easily disposed of, for the whole country seems to be underlaid with coal, varying in quality from lignite in Manitoba to anthracite of the highest grade in the mountains. On the Red Deer River there is a vein 58 feet thick, and in the Crow's Nest Pass there is a series of superimposed veins having a total thickness of 150 feet. In many places the farmers get their supply of fuel without other cost than the labour of digging it out of the banks of the nearest stream; and coal mined directly under the town is delivered at Edmonton for $2 per ton. . . .

"One part of the second question has been answered, and the other part can be answered in a line; for the total population in this great area of 359,000 square miles was but 219,305 in 1891, of whom 152,506 were in Manitoba. The stream of American emigration will be perennial, and it will continue to flow into the Canadian North-West.

"Carlyle once said to an American visitor: 'In my opinion the prosperity of the United States is not due to your republican institutions, but to the fact that you have a very great deal of land for a very few people.' He was right. The 'conquest of a virgin continent' has been the fundamental reason for the growth of this great nation. We stand face to face to-day with conditions so radically new that it will demand a higher order of statesmanship to carry the great Republic through the coming century in prosperity and peace than has been needed in the past to bring it to its present power. . . .

"For Canada the hour of destiny has struck. She has the physical basis for an empire; and the stream of immigration which has now begun will swell into a mighty movement of population like that by which our central West was occupied, until her fertile lands shall be the home of millions of prosperous people. Thus far American immigrants are largely in excess of those from other lands outside of the British Empire, and American thought will have a mighty influence in moulding the character of the coming commonwealths of the Canadian North-West. The English-speaking immigrants outnumber manyfold all those of other tongues; and thus it is made sure that both the great Republic and the nascent nation of the North will be loyal to the ideals of constitutional liberty, and, standing side by side, will work together to advance that Anglo-Saxon civilisation which seems destined to dominate the world."

PERSONS WANTED IN CANADA,
AND IMMIGRATION THAT IS NOT ENCOURAGED.

Persons with Capital.

The first great demand is for practical men with some capital at their disposal, for which class there are unlimited openings. They can engage in agricultural pursuits, taking up free-grant lands, or purchasing the improved farms to be found in advantageous positions in every province; or in mining, or in the manufacturing industries, or, if possessed of a settled income, living will be found to be cheap in Canada, and the country offers the additional benefits of a fine healthy climate, magnificent scenery, abundant opportunities for sport, and facilities for educating children and placing them in life not to be excelled anywhere.

Agriculturists.

Persons of small capital and knowledge of farming often desire to enter upon agricultural pursuits. Before this is done, experience should be acquired by hiring out as a labourer, or in some other way. The necessary experience having been obtained, a farm may be either rented, purchased, or taken up as a free grant.

It is difficult to lay down a hard-and-fast rule as to the amount of capital necessary to start farming. The answer depends upon the energy, experience, judgment, and enterprise of the person who is to spend the money, the province selected, whether free-grant land is to be taken up or an improved farm rented or purchased, and many other details. It may safely be said, however, that if a man has about £100 clear on landing he is in a position to make a fair beginning on free-grant land in Manitoba and the North-West, though not on a large scale. A larger capital is of course necessary if an improved farm is to be taken.

Tenant Farmers.

For tenant farmers the country offers many advantages. Improved farms are cheap; free grants can be obtained by those prepared for the temporary inconvenience of pioneer life; the soil is fertile, the climate ensures the growth of all crops produced in Great Britain, and all the smaller fruits grow and ripen in the open air, as in many parts of the country do grapes, peaches, tomatoes, and melons. There is a large and growing demand in the Dominion, and in the Mother Country, for all the cereals, fruits, live stock, and general farm and dairy produce available for disposal; while taxes are light, and labour-saving appliances are cheap, and in general use.

Young Men desiring Agricultural Experience.

The question is often asked if it is essential for young men wishing to take up farms in Canada, but desiring before doing so to acquire a knowledge of agriculture, to pay premiums, either to persons in the Old Country or in the Dominion, for that purpose. It may therefore be plainly stated that NO PREMIUMS ARE NECESSARY; and it is advised that none be paid. Strong and healthy young men, from 18 to 21 years of age, who are prepared to accept for a time the hard

work and surroundings more or less inseparable from a farm labourer's life, have no difficulty in getting employment in the spring; and the agents of the Government in Canada will assist them as far as possible in doing so, without charge, although, of course, without accepting any direct responsibility. Being without experience, they will not get much wages at the commencement of their employment, but as they acquire skill they will be able to command remuneration in proportion to the value of their work.

Domestic Service and other Callings for Females.

In every city, town, and village, female domestic servants can readily find employment. The wages are good, the conditions of service are not irksome, and comfortable homes are assured. There is little or no demand for females other than domestic servants; governesses, shop assistants, nurses, &c., should not come out unless for the purpose of joining friends who will be able to help them in getting employment.

Domestic servants should go at once on their arrival to the nearest Government agent. These gentlemen will give the best and most reliable advice gratis; they often have in their offices a list of vacant situations; and will refer applicants to the local ladies' committee, so that they may have the benefit of such supervision and guidance until they are satisfactorily placed. Servants should, however, take their credentials with them, and bear in mind that good records are just as indispensable in Canada as elsewhere. They may safely go out at any time of the year and be certain of obtaining a situation at once, but should remember always to have funds enough in hand on landing to take them to the places in the interior where their services are required.

Other Callings.

Mechanics, general labourers, and navvies are advised to obtain special information as to their respective trades and kinds of work before coming out. The demand for railway *employés* is not great, and is easily met by the supply in the country. Clerks, shop assistants, telegraphists, draftsmen, &c., are not encouraged to emigrate to Canada, unless proceeding to appointments already assured, or to join friends.

Child Emigration.

The emigration of children (unless accompanying their families) is not encouraged, unless they go under the supervision of some society or individual, having homes in Great Britain and in Canada, who will look after them until they are able to take care of themselves, and who will be responsible for placing them in situations. All children sent out must be healthy (and possess medical certificates to that effect), and of good character.

Inmates of Workhouses.

It may be stated that the emigration of the inmates of workhouses, reformatories, or persons in receipt of parish relief, is not encouraged by the Canadian Government. The same remark applies to any persons who are not able to produce satisfactory references as to their character. There are no openings for such classes in any part of Canada.

Shortest Sea Passage to America. V. R. Average about Eight Days.

THE NEAREST BRITISH COLONY.

25,000 Farmers in Manitoba in 1895 raised no less than 60,000,000 bushels of Grain in addition to other produce.

CANADA

TENANT FARMERS and others with moderate means who wish to engage in profitable agriculture, AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS, and FEMALE DOMESTIC SERVANTS, are, at the present time, the classes mostly required in Canada.

Improved Farms, with comfortable Dwellings and Out-buildings, can be purchased in ONTARIO, QUEBEC, NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, and BRITISH COLUMBIA for from Three Pounds to Twelve Pounds per acre, and these Lands are within from eight to fourteen days of Great Britain. Similar properties can be purchased at somewhat lower prices in MANITOBA and the NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

FREE FARMS OF 160 ACRES

Given to Eligible Settlers, in the Fertile Arable and Grazing Prairie Lands of

MANITOBA

AND THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,

Assiniboia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Athabaska.

Grants of 100 to 200 acres are also offered in other parts of Canada.

☞ Before seeking new homes in any part of the World, persons are advised to obtain a copy of the REPORTS OF THE BRITISH TENANT FARMERS WHO VISITED CANADA IN 1893, to Report upon the Agricultural Resources of the country; and the Reports of Professor Wallace, Professor of Agriculture and Rural Economy at Edinburgh University, and of Professor Long, the well-known Agricultural Expert. These, with other newly-issued Pamphlets and Maps, published under the authority of the Imperial and Dominion Governments, containing full information respecting Canada, its resources, trade, demand for labour, the Land Regulations, &c., may be obtained POST FREE, or personally, on application to the agencies of the Canadian Government in the United Kingdom (see next page).

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IN CANADA.

Intending settlers in Canada are strongly advised to communicate, either personally or by letter, with the nearest Agent of the Canadian Government in Great Britain before they leave, so as to obtain the fullest and latest advice applicable to their cases. A list of these officers will be found below, and they will supply not only the latest pamphlets relating to Canada, but any other information that may be required relating to free grants of land, the prices of improved farms, land regulations, demand for labour, rates of wages, cost of passage, and all other particulars of interest to their correspondents. Pamphlets and information are supplied gratis and post free, and may be obtained either on personal application at any of the offices, or by letter to

The High Commissioner for Canada (THE HON. SIR CHARLES TUPPER, BART., G.C.M.G., C.B.), 17, Victoria Street, London, S.W.; or to the following Canadian Government Agents:—

Mr. JOHN DYKE, 15, Water Street, Liverpool; Mr. J. W. DOWN, Bath Bridge, Bristol; Mr. E. J. WOOD, 78, Beaufort Road, Birmingham; Mr. THOMAS GRAHAME, 40, St. Enoch Square, Glasgow; Mr. PETER FLEMING, 44, High Street, Dundee; Mr. W. G. STUART, Duack Lodge, Nethy Bridge, Inverness.

Several of the Provinces of Canada have Agencies in Great Britain as follows:

ONTARIO: Mr. P. Byrne, 9, James Street, Liverpool; BRITISH COLUMBIA: The Hon. Forbes G. Vernon, 39, Victoria Street, London, S.W.; MANITOBA: Mr. A. J. McMillan, 7, James Street, Liverpool; NOVA SCOTIA: Mr. John Howard, 143, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

On reaching Canada, or any time afterwards, the nearest Government Agent should be consulted, as they are in a position to furnish accurate particulars on all matters of interest to the new arrival. The following is a list of the various Immigration Agencies under the supervision of the Department of the Interior:—

Winnipeg, Man. — Commissioner of Dominion Lands, in charge of Outside Service in Manitoba and the North-West Territories — Mr. H. H. SMITH.

Agents at Ports of Call for Steamships in Canada:—

Mr. E. M. CLAY ...	Halifax, N.S.	Mr. P. DOYLE ...	Quebec, Q.
,, S. GARDNER	St. John, N.B.	,, J. HOOLAHAN	Montreal, Q.

Dominion Lands Agents in Canada who act as Immigration Agents:—

W. H. HIAM... ...	Brandon, Man.	J. G. JESSUP ...	Red Deer, N.W.T.
W. G. PENTLAND	Birtle ,,	J. KILDAHL	Beaver Lake ,,
JOHN FLESHER ...	Deloraine ,,	C. E. PHIPPS ...	Estevan ,,
W. M. HILLIARD...	Minnedosa ,,	E. BROKOVSKI ...	Battleford ,,
R. GUNNE	Lake Dauphin ,,	W. H. COTTINGHAM	Lethbridge ,,
F. K. HERCHMER	Yorkton ,,	T. B. FERGUSON ...	Wetaskiwin ,,
W. H. STEVENSON	Regina, N.W.T.	JOHN MCKENZIE...	New Westminster, B.C.
AMOS ROWE	Calgary ,,	E. A. NASH	Kamloops, B.C.
JOHN MCTAGGART	Prince Albert ,,		
THOS. ANDERSON	Edmonton ,,		

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